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# COUNTRY LIFE

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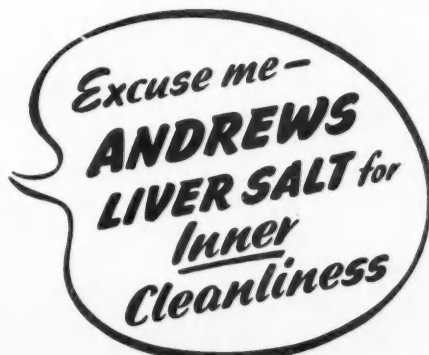
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(23)



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Advertisements for this column are accepted at the rate of 2d. per word prepaid (if Box Number used 5d. extra), and must reach this office not later than Friday morning for the coming week's issue.

All communications should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, "COUNTRY LIFE," Southampton Street, Strand, London.

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For further particulars apply Advertisement Department, "Country Life," Tower House, Southampton Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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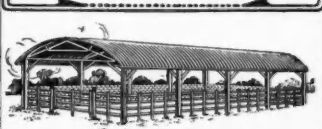
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# COUNTRY LIFE

THE JOURNAL FOR ALL INTERESTED IN COUNTRY LIFE  
AND COUNTRY PURSUITS.

VOL. LXXXVIII. No. 2283.

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In favourite residential area, on high ground, between Alresford and Alton.

#### THIS FASCINATING PERIOD RESIDENCE



PRICE FREEHOLD £3,500

Recommended from personal knowledge by  
HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (H.50,472.) (REG. 8222.)

recently modernised.  
Approached by drive  
and comprising hall,  
lounge (24ft. by 20ft.),  
study, dining room, 5  
bed and dressing rooms,  
2 bathrooms and offices.

Oak staircase.  
Co.'s electricity.  
Modern drainage.  
Well water supply.

Garage for 2 cars and  
outbuildings. Gardens  
of about an Acre with  
paddock adjoining, the  
whole extending to  
about 7 ACRES.

300FT. UP IN A BEAUTIFUL PART OF

### WILTSHIRE

#### Delightful Stone-Built and Stone-tiled MANOR HOUSE

with long drive  
approach.

Arranged on 2 Floors.

3 reception,  
9 bedrooms.

3 bathrooms, etc.

Main lighting and water  
supply.

"Aga" Cooker.

Garage. Stabling.

2 COTTAGES.

Well-timbered grounds,  
rock and flower gardens,  
tennis lawn and rich  
meadowland.



15 ACRES ONLY £3,800 FREEHOLD  
OR £3,300 EXCLUDING THE COTTAGES.

Agents, HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1.  
(W.50,819.) (REG. 8222.)

### SURREY, REIGATE

Fine situation commanding beautiful views.

A WELL-APPOINTED COUNTRY HOUSE.  
enjoying south aspect; lounge hall, 3 reception,  
6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and ample offices; Co.'s electric  
light, gas and water, central heating; 3 garages; charming  
pleasure grounds with tennis lawn, kitchen garden, etc.;  
in all about 2 ACRES. Good air-raid shelter.

PRICE £4,250 FREEHOLD

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street,  
S.W.1. (S.43,931.) (REG. 8222.)

### HITCHIN, HERTS

About 1½ miles from the station.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE:  
spacious entrance hall, 3 reception, billiard room,  
9-10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, usual offices.

Central heating. Co.'s electric light and gas, main  
drainage; 2 garages.  
GARDENS AND GROUNDS of about 1½ ACRES, with  
tennis lawn, kitchen garden, etc.

PRICE £3,750

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street,  
S.W.1. (R.2053.) (REG. 8222.)

### BERKS & OXON BORDERS

On a beautiful stretch of the Thames.

75 minutes from London by main line G.W. Ry.

AN ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE, in quiet situa-  
tion, set amidst lovely gardens; entrance hall, 3 re-  
ception, 9 bedrooms (5 with h and c.), 3 bathrooms and  
offices; central heating, Co.'s electric light, gas and water.

STABLING. GARAGE. COTTAGE.  
Tennis and other lawns, kitchen and fruit gardens. Boat-  
houses with river frontage.

To be Let Unfurnished or for Sale Freehold  
Apply HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street,  
S.W.1. (B.13,323.) (REG. 8222.)

### HANTS & DORSET BORDERS

South aspect; gravel soil.

CHARMING MODERNISED OLD-FASHIONED  
HOUSE: 3 large sitting rooms, 7 bedrooms, bath-  
room; electric light; stabling, garage.

Garden of about 2½ ACRES.  
TO LET FURNISHED, RENT 8 GNS. p.w., tenant keeping  
up (2 maids might stay on); or would be LET

UNFURNISHED FOR 3 YEARS

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street,  
S.W.1. (REG. 8222.)

### 18 MILES N.W. OF TOWN

In high healthy position with

Fine Views over Chess Valley.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD, together with contents  
if required, most attractive MODERN RESIDENCE,  
in admirable order throughout; entrance hall, 2 reception,  
5 bedrooms, bathroom, excellent offices.

Well-built garage. Main services.  
DELIGHTFUL GARDENS, with full-size tennis lawn, etc.

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street,  
S.W.1. (R.2020.) (REG. 8222.)

### WILTS-DORSET BORDERS

FASCINATING THATCHED COTTAGE  
RESIDENCE, amidst charming country; modernised  
and in admirable order; hall, 2 reception, 3/4 bedrooms,  
bathroom, kitchen, etc.

Central heating. Co.'s electric light and water.  
Large garage. Summerhouse.

PRETTY GARDENS.

FOR SALE WITH or WITHOUT CONTENTS

Inspected and recommended by HAMPTON & SONS,  
LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (H.50,464.) (REG. 8222.)

Estate Offices: 6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

BRANCH OFFICE: HIGH STREET, WIMBLEDON COMMON (Phone: WIM 0081).

Telephone No.:  
Regent 4304.

# OSBORN & MERCER

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

28b, ALBEMARLE STREET  
PICCADILLY, W.1.

## SURREY—LEITH HILL

Amidst beautiful unspoiled rural surroundings.

Architectural Gem, dating back to the XIIIth Century



in the centre of its own lands, and containing 4 reception, 10 bedrooms, 3 luxurious bathrooms, model offices.

Up-to-date and labour-saving Cottage.

SWIMMING POOL. HARD TENNIS COURT  
Pasture and Woodland.

40 ACRES

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (17,128.)

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

In a delightful situation, 400ft. up with lovely views. Attractive STONE-BUILT HOUSE with 3 reception, 9 bedrooms, bathroom. Electric light, central heating.

Cottage. Stabling. Farmbuildings.

For Sale with 5 or 80 ACRES (the latter showing return).

Agents, OSBORN & MERCER. (15,243.)

## SOMERSET-WILTS-DORSET BORDERS

A DELIGHTFUL COUNTRY HOUSE

With modern appointments and containing 3 reception, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

2 Cottages. Stabling. Paddocks.

For Sale with 24 ACRES (or less if required). Inspected by OSBORN & MERCER. (17,183.)

## FAVOURITE MIDLAND COUNTY ATTRACTIVE AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE

ABOUT 1,500 ACRES

All let and showing first-rate return CAPITAL SHOOTING. TROUT FISHING.  
FOR SALE by OSBORN & MERCER.

## OXON AND BUCKS BORDERS

ON THE WESTERN SLOPES OF THE  
CHILTERN HILLS

Completely rural. Fine panoramic views.



DELIGHTFUL SMALL MODERN HOUSE

Lounge hall, 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, bathroom.

Modern conveniences. Lodge. Stabling. Garage.

Matured Gardens: hard tennis court. Paddock and Woodland.

20 ACRES

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (14,191.)



29, Fleet Street, **FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO.** 26, Dover Street,

(Central 9344) E.C.4 AUCTIONEERS. CHARTERED SURVEYORS. LAND AGENTS (Regent 5681) W.1

Telegraphic Address: FAREBROTHER, LONDON.



## RICH NORTH DEVON FARM

Lovely setting with long River Frontage

MODERN HOUSE

WITH 2 RECEPTION, 6/7 BEDROOMS AND 2 BATH ROOMS.

Excellent Buildings. Cottages. Company's Light and Power. Ample Water.

ABOUT 285 ACRES FOR SALE FREEHOLD

SALMON FISHING AVAILABLE.

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO., 26, Dover Street, W.1.

## WILTSHIRE

Within an easy distance of the Downs.

DELIGHTFUL GEORGIAN HOUSE

Lounge, 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 3 bath rooms; every modern convenience. Stabling. Garage. Nice grounds.

ABOUT 30 ACRES. FOR SALE

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO., 26, Dover Street, W.1.

## NEAR MONMOUTH

AN ORIGINAL STONE-BUILT GEORGIAN HOUSE

Approached by a long drive with entrance lodge and enjoying panoramic views.

3 or 4 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms.

Electric light. Ample gravity water. Swimming pool. Garage.

28 ACRES ONLY £3,500

Or including 2 FARMS and WOODLAND. 253 ACRES £8,500.

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO., 26, Dover Street, W.1. (Fo. 13062.)

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

4½ MILES FROM THE COUNTY TOWN.

AN IMPOSING STONE-BUILT GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

400ft. up, enjoying beautiful views.

Entrance and lounge halls, 5 reception rooms, 22 bed and dressing rooms, 8 bath rooms. Semi-basement offices, adaptable as an air-raid shelter.

Beautifully fitted with every modern comfort.

Stabling for 18, including 14 loose boxes; 3 men's rooms, suitable for adaptation as offices; garage; entrance lodge; 6 cottages, capable of providing additional accommodation for emergency use.

Valuable Farms.

ABOUT 750 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

The Mansion might be sold with a smaller area if desired, and vacant possession might be arranged within a month.

The buildings and farms are considered to be in first class order, and have been inspected by the Sole Agents:

Messrs. FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO., 26, Dover Street, London, W.1.

## CORNWALL

Between Bude and Padstow.

ELIZABETHAN MANOR HOUSE

with marine views; 3 or 4 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms. Capital

Secondary House. Ample buildings. Main electric light and water.

Gardens—down to small cove.

ABOUT 12 ACRES

ONLY £5,000

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO., 26, Dover Street, W.1.

TO CLOSE A TRUST ESTATE.

**NORTHANTS-BEDS BORDERS.**—FOR SALE, with vacant possession, a small compact RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE comprising a GENUINE QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE having 4 reception, 15 bed, 4 bath rooms and excellent domestic offices; outbuildings and 2 cottages; charming terraced gardens and timbered grounds. Electric light; ample water supply; modern drainage. Also SMALL HOME FARM, the whole extending to 62 acres. Price £10,000 or near offer. —Further particulars from the Joint Agents, C. R. MORRIS, SONS & PEARD, North Curry, Taunton; and (with orders to view) from ROBINSON & HALL, St. Paul's Square, Bedford.

## N. R., YORKS

FOR SALE by Private Treaty in one of the most attractive neighbourhoods in the County with extensive views over the Vale of York.—COUNTRY RESIDENCE, standing in some 8 acres of gardens and grounds (with an additional 50 acres, mainly grass, if required). The House contains 5 sitting rooms and 8 best bed and dressing rooms with other servants' rooms, and there is ample garage, stabling and other accommodation, with two cottages. Main water and electricity and central heating. Early possession.—For further particulars, apply PEARSONS & WARD, Solicitors, Malton.

**TORQUAY** (safe area).—Modern RESIDENCE in charming grounds with uninterrupted views of Torbay, occupying unique secluded position with grounds facing South. The accommodation is well planned on two floors, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, 6 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, VERANDAH. CENTRAL HEATING. FREEHOLD £4,000 to close Executry Estate.—WAYCOTTS, 5, Fleet Street, Torquay.

## DEVON AND S. & W. COUNTIES

THE ONLY COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED REGISTER.

Price 2/6.

SELECTED LISTS FREE.

RIPPON, BOSWELL & CO., F.A.I.,

(Est. 1884.)

EXETER.

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND ADJOINING COUNTIES**  
HOLLOWAY, PRICE & CO.,  
(ESTABLISHED 1809.) MARKET HARBOUROUGH.

LAND AGENTS, AUCTIONEERS, VALUERS

' BATTERSBY'S AUCTIONS "  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st, AT OUR SALEROOMS.



ATTRACTIVE FEE-SIMPLE INVESTMENT.

£1,120 YEARLY, out of

"KILTERAGH MANSIONS."

WESTMINSTER ROAD, FOXROCK, CO. DUBLIN. Formerly the residence of the late Sir Horace Plunkett, it was reconstructed into modern mansion flats, which are now occupied by seven excellent tenants and producing a RENTAL of £1,120 per annum. The property is held in FEE-SIMPLE, FREE OF RENT.

AS RESIDENTIAL MANSION FLATS THE PROPERTY IS UNIQUE, nothing of the same kind having been developed elsewhere. They stand on approximately 11 ACRES of beautifully laid-out gardens and grounds, featuring specially yew hedges, and each of the tenants, while enjoying all the amenities of the property, is assured of all the privacy which a well-placed private residence affords.

The rents payable by the present tenants vary from £100 to £220 per annum, and the total Poor Law Valuation of the property amounts to £274, the rates thereon being payable by the various tenants.—Further particulars Auctioneers, or Solicitors having Carriage of the Sale:

Messrs. STANUELL and SONS, 16, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

BATTERSBY & CO.,

Auctioneers and Valuers,

39, WESTMORELAND STREET, DUBLIN.

Established in the year 1815.

## LAND, ESTATES AND OTHER PROPERTIES WANTED

WANTED TO RENT OR PURCHASE for prompt cash LARGE TOWN OR COUNTRY HOUSE AND LAND suitable for conversion into Works and Offices in district North, South or West of London and within radius of between 20 and 50 miles therefrom.—Box No. 884, DORLANDS, 14-16, Regent Street, S.W.1.



# GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

Telephone No.:  
Grosvenor 1553 (4 lines).

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.1.

And at  
Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,  
12, Victoria Street,  
Westminster, S.W.1.

## 33 MINUTES FROM KING'S CROSS IN PERFECT RURAL SURROUNDINGS. 400ft. above sea with a magnificent view.



### FOR SALE

This unusually delightful HOUSE, designed and built by a well known Architect for his own occupation. 9 bedrooms (h. and c. basins), 3 bathrooms, lounge hall and 3 reception rooms. Central heating. All Co.'s services. STABLES, GARAGE, COTTAGE, WELL-TIMBERED GROUNDS and excellent Paddock—in all 7 ACRES. Owner's Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25 Mount Street, W.1. (C.4709.)

### WANTED

£10,000

WILL BE PAID FOR

300 ACRES in the FARNHAM DISTRICT OF SURREY

OTHER PARTS WITHIN 60 MILES WEST OF TOWN CONSIDERED.

Possession and a really nice HOUSE with 6 bedrooms and 3 sitting rooms, etc., liked. Suitable buildings and cottages *sine qua non* and, if necessary, somewhat more land would be purchased.

Replies to W.P. (C.60), c/o GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1.

### IN NORTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE UP TO 1,000 ACRES

of sound AGRICULTURAL LAND, either *en bloc* or in individual farms. Tenants not disturbed if let, but possession of part for purchaser's occupation preferred.

Replies to "R. L." (1519), c/o GEORGE TROLLOPE and SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1.

Quite fresh in the Market.

### HAMPSHIRE

in a very secluded and quiet position in well-timbered country.

#### FOR SALE

A HOUSE OF DISTINCT CHARACTER standing in about 20 ACRES

and containing 12 bed and dressing (h. and c. basins), 3 bath and 4 reception rooms, etc., Co.'s services.

STABLES. GARAGE AND FLAT.

Low Price for Quick Sale.

Owner's Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1.

### FOR INVESTMENT

Income £340 per annum. No Tithe. Land Tax £18.

PRICE £6,500

FARM OF 200 ACRES WITH FARM HOUSE AND GOOD BUILDINGS.

The land is all pasture, including 30 acres water meadows, and comprises some of the best land in the district.

SIX MILES DORCHESTER.

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (B.7095.)

### ABOUT 1 HOUR'S RAIL OF TOWN

and 38 miles by road.



£6,500.—A MODERN UP-TO-DATE RESIDENCE with 7 principal bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, etc.; main electric light and water; garage; lovely wooded grounds; tennis court; kitchen gardens and paddock.

#### FOR SALE WITH ABOUT 7 ACRES

Inspected and highly recommended by GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, London, W.1. (D.1108.)

## WESTERN COUNTIES NEAR MARKET TOWN.



### ARCHITECT-BUILT RESIDENCE

3 reception. Study. 5 bed and dressing. 3 baths.

Main electric light and water, modern drainage, central heating.

DOUBLE GARAGE. 2 ACRES OF GROUND

#### FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Particulars of GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C.7071.)

### IN GLORIOUS WEST SUSSEX

Between Midhurst and Petersfield. In a lovely countryside away from military objectives and commanding a magnificent view.

TO BE SOLD.—An expensively built and thoroughly well-appointed RESIDENCE, containing 7 bed, 3 bath and 3 reception rooms (large), etc.

Electricity, central heating, etc.

First-rate garage and lodge; long drive.

Inexpensive well-timbered gardens, a small wood, etc.

some 17 ACRES in all.

Capital bus service passes.

Price, etc., from Owner's Agents, GEORGE TROLLOPE and SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (D.2575.)

### £4,250. WITLEY DISTRICT

Good bus and rail services.

### GENUINE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

Judiciously and completely modernised.

6 bedrooms (h. and c. basins), 3 reception and maids' sitting room, etc.

Co.'s water. Central Heating. Electricity, etc.

GARAGE, STABLE, and 2 ACRES

of matured grounds and small paddock.

Owner's Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (D.1120.)

# F. L. MERCER & CO.

SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND HOUSES

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1.

Telephone: REGENT 2481.

## WORCESTERSHIRE

IN A SELECT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT 11 MILES FROM BIRMINGHAM

CLOSE TO WELL-KNOWN GOLF LINKS.

AMIDST CHARMING SURROUNDINGS.

QUIET AND SECLUDED

ONLY £3,750 IS ASKED



for this beautifully-appointed detached FREEHOLD RESIDENCE of charming character, which has recently had large sums of money expended on well-conceived improvements. It is in perfect condition in every respect, equipped with every modern luxury and ready for immediate occupation.

Lounge hall, 3 reception, 6-7 bedrooms, 2 elegant modern bathrooms.

Central heating. All main services connected.

HEATED DOUBLE GARAGE.

MOST ATTRACTIVE GARDENS

designed for economical upkeep.



This unique property is unexpectedly for Sale in consequence of the owner having purchased a larger place in the district

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

## HAMPSHIRE. ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WINCHESTER



A POSITIVE BARGAIN AT £2,750

IMMEDIATE SALE DESIRED

Comfortable GEORGIAN RESIDENCE with later addition, on high ground with interesting views over the City.

4 reception, 7 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms.

All main services connected.

2 GARAGES.

PRETTY TERRACED GARDENS

with tennis and other lawns, rockery, flower beds and herbaceous borders.

1 ACRE FREEHOLD

ADDITIONAL ½ ACRE RENTED



Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

5, MOUNT STREET,  
LONDON, W.1.

## CURTIS & HENSON

Telephones :  
Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines).  
ESTABLISHED 1875.

### SURREY

3 MILES FROM DORKING NORTH STATION. 5 MINUTES WALK FROM A CHARMING VILLAGE.



#### DELIGHTFUL MODERN HOUSE

Brick, partly rough cast with cavity walls and tiled roof. Beautifully situated, 300ft. above sea level and approached along a drive about 200 yards from the road. Lounge hall, 2 reception rooms, cloakroom, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Electric light. Central Heating. Gas and Cooker. Main water and drainage. Telephone. Garage for 2 cars.

Matured and completed. Grounds with elegant trees and shrubs, appropriately arranged in proportion to



the surrounding countryside. Excellent grass tennis court. Thatched tea house; attractive lily pool; large kitchen garden. Loam and sand.  
**IN ALL ABOUT 5½ ACRES. For Sale Freehold at a Reduced Price. (Early Possession.)**

GOLF COURSES AT DORKING AND BETCHWORTH.  
CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (Tel.: Grosvenor 3131.)

**SOMERSET** (Yeovil 7 miles).—Attractive **STONE-BUILT HOUSE** with old mullion windows, standing in finely timbered grounds. 3-4 reception rooms, 11 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, model offices. Electric light; main water. Garage and stabling. Gardener's cottage. Charming Gardens and Grounds, interspersed with specimen timber trees, walled kitchen garden and pastureland; in all about 9½ ACRES. Hunting and Golf.

**FOR SALE FREEHOLD AT A REDUCED PRICE.**  
CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,325.)

**ASHDOWN FOREST** (350ft. above sea level). Picturesque **MODERN HOUSE** in complete seclusion, amidst beautiful woodland and commanding long distance views to the South. Approached by a drive from private road ¼ mile from high road. Lounge, dining room, 7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Co.'s electricity and water. Garage, studio, garden room, summerhouse. Grounds with abundance of flowering shrubs and specimen conifer trees; orchard, kitchen garden and natural woodland. Tennis court, swimming pool and putting green. **TO BE LET UNFURNISHED.**  
CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (15,823.)

**SURREY** (Leith Hill District).—Beautifully secluded position, 1 minute from bus route and 1½ miles from Station. Unique **MODERN HOUSE** of character, 4 reception, 9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main services; central heating. Garage for 2 cars and Cottage. Flower garden, grass tennis court; fruit and vegetable gardens. 4 Acres or more.

**FOR SALE OR TO BE LET UNFURNISHED.**  
Apply CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (15,433A.)

### JUST OVER 40 MILES FROM LONDON



#### Most Charming Residence

built in the farmhouse style.  
*Up to date and in first-class order throughout.*

3 RECEPTION ROOMS.  
8 BEDROOMS.  
2 BATHROOMS.

Main water, gas and electricity.

GARAGE (for 2 cars).  
2 EXCELLENT COTTAGES.  
Delightful playroom.  
LAWN TENNIS COURT.  
PROLIFIC KITCHEN GARDEN.



*Beautiful Grounds of very great charm. Fine woodland merging into heathland and several paddocks.*

**For Sale Freehold with from about 25 to 72 Acres**  
GOLF AT HINDHEAD. RIDING OVER MILES OF COMMONLAND.  
Confidently recommended by the Sole Agents: CURTIS & HENSON. (16,432.)

## F. L. MERCER & CO.

SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND HOUSES

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1.

Telephone: REGENT 2481.

THE CHOICE COUNTRY HOME OF A WELL-KNOWN ARCHITECT

### SURREY

OCCUPYING A CHARMING AND RURAL POSITION.

35 MINUTES FROM LONDON



#### A CAREFULLY MODERNISED RESIDENCE OF MEDIUM SIZE

Approached by a gravel drive, facing South, and incorporating every desirable feature of modern equipment.

Entrance hall and cloakroom, 3 reception rooms with oak parquet floors, 8 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms.

Central heating and all main services connected.

2 GARAGES (1 DOUBLE).

Games Room over.

#### WELL-ESTABLISHED GARDENS

with tennis court and many well-grown trees and shrubs.

1¼ ACRES. FREEHOLD. £4,950

Owner might consider letting furnished at 12 guineas per week.

Golf Links at Tandridge and Walton Heath

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.



## SOMERSET, DORSET AND WILTSHIRE BORDERS

350FT. UP. WITH A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OVER THE BLACKMORE VALE.

In a good Social and Sporting neighbourhood. Peaceful and secluded position with all the amenities of a small country town immediately at hand.

**A STONE-BUILT TUDOR HOUSE** OF CONSIDERABLE CHARACTER AND CHARM. Modernised and improved regardless of cost.

With lounge hall, fine drawing room (39ft. long), 2 other reception, 9 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms.

"Aga" Cooker, central heating, basins in bedrooms, main drainage, electricity, gas and water.

GARAGES. STABLES.  
2 EXCELLENT COTTAGES.

Tennis Court and Attractive Old Gardens.



**FOR SALE WITH 3 ACRES AT MUCH BELOW ACTUAL COST**

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

14, MOUNT STREET,  
GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

## WILSON & CO.

Telephone:  
Grosvenor 1441 (three lines.)

### IN RURAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Easy reach of Aylesbury. Outskirts of beautiful Village.



**XVTH CENTURY HOUSE**—Tudor panelled brickwork, oak beams, open fireplaces. 7 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4 reception. Magnificent Old Barn. Garage. Lovely Old Gardens. Swimming pool, hard court.

**FOR SALE WITH 8 ACRES**

Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

### BEAUTIFUL QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

With many period features.



Set within Old-World Gardens and Miniature Park of 10 ACRES, within easy reach of London in rural Sussex. 13 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge and 4 reception.

Garage. Stabling. Cottages.

**FOR SALE OR TO LET FURNISHED**

Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

### YORKSHIRE

Lovely position. Easy reach of York.



**BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED STONE-BUILT HOUSE** in splendid order. Electric light. Central heating. 10-12 Bedrooms (with h. & c. wash basins), 3 Baths, 4 Reception. Stabling. Garages. Very Charming Gardens and Paddock. 16 ACRES.

**FOR SALE OR TO LET FURNISHED**

Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

### OUTSKIRTS OF OLD-WORLD HERTFORDSHIRE VILLAGE

1/2 hour from London; 400ft. above sea level.

#### LOVELY OLD QUEEN ANNE MANOR

in faultless order with all

Main services and central heating.

8 BEDROOMS. 3 BATHROOMS.  
LOUNGE HALL. 3 RECEPTION ROOMS.  
Garages. Cottage.

DELIGHTFUL BUT INEXPENSIVE GARDENS.

Hard tennis court; paddock nearly  
3 ACRES.

**FOR IMMEDIATE SALE  
£5,000 FREEHOLD**

Sole Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.



Telephone:  
Grosvenor 2252  
(6 lines)

## CONSTABLE & MAUDE

2, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1

### CAPITAL FARM INVESTMENT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

FARM OF 200 ACRES

in a ring fence

STONE-BUILT FARMHOUSE  
with 5-8 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 sitting rooms.

Modern Farm Buildings.

LET ON AN ANNUAL TENANCY.

**TO BE SOLD**

Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

### ON THE BORDERS OF NORTHANTS AND WARWICKSHIRE

**FOR SALE AS AN INVESTMENT**

**AN EXCELLENT FARM**

within easy reach of important centre, and Farmhouse with 8 rooms, etc.

GOOD OUTBUILDINGS. 2 CAPITAL COTTAGES.

**LAND COMPRISES 180 ACRES**

(MAINLY PASTURE).

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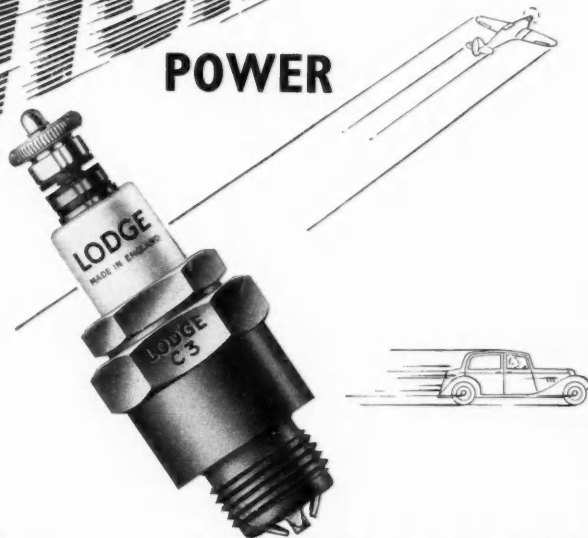
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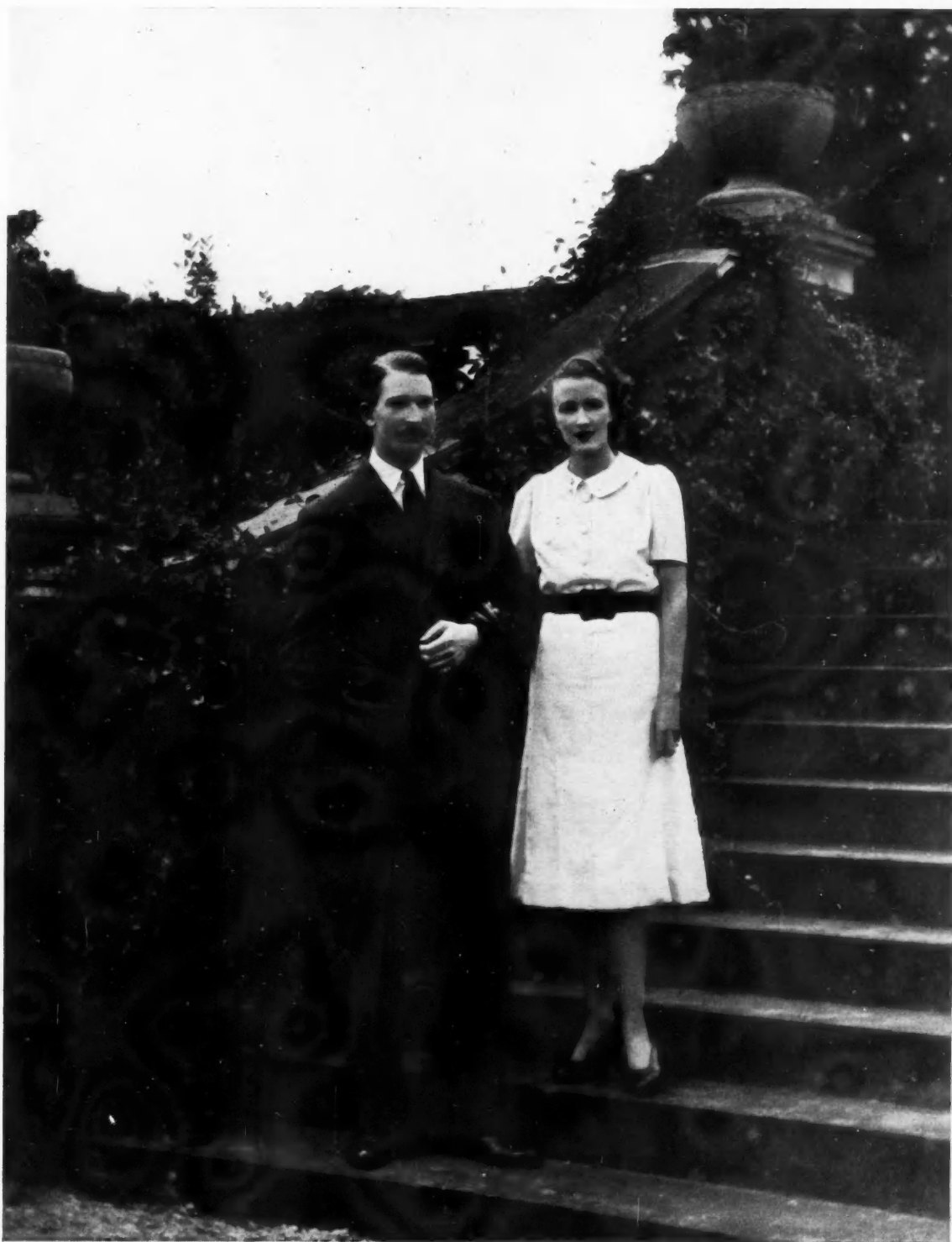
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# COUNTRY LIFE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 1940

Vol. LXXXVIII. No. 2283



*Lenore*

28, St. George Street, Hanover Square, W.1

**CAPTAIN (TEMPORARY MAJOR) RICHARD ANSTRUTHER-GOUGH-CALTHORPE AND MRS. RICHARD ANSTRUTHER-GOUGH-CALTHORPE IN THE GROUNDS OF ELVETHAM HALL, HAMPSHIRE**

Mrs. Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe is the only daughter of Mr. V. A. and the Hon. Mrs. Malcolmson: the christening of her son took place recently, and on the same day Captain Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe received the O.B.E. for gallantry in Norway

# COUNTRY LIFE

OFFICES: 2-10, TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.2.  
 Telegrams: "COUNTRY LIFE," LONDON: Telephone: TEMPLE BAR 7351  
 Advertisements: TOWER HOUSE, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, W.C.2. Telephone: TEMPLE BAR 4363

"Country Life" Crossword No. 560 p. xv.

POSTAL CHARGES.—The Editor reminds correspondents and contributors that any communications requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. Notice is given that MSS. submitted will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

POSTAGES ON THIS ISSUE: INLAND 2d., CANADA 1½d., ABROAD 2d.

## A MINISTRY OF PLANNING

THE elevation of the Office of Works into a Ministry, with the creator of the B.B.C. at its head, has stimulated the hopes, and the imaginations, of all who look beyond this mad phase of destructiveness to the dawn of a golden age of reason and reconstruction. The new Ministry's field of operations is as yet only adumbrated: to co-ordinate plans, expenditure, materials, and technical skill on work of necessary reconstruction, in addition, of course, to the existing services of the Office of Works. The President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, in assuring the new Minister of the cordial co-operation of architects in this general aim, went on to express the view that it was in the future that the Ministry of Works would have its great opportunity. That future is not so far distant that "vision and trained skill in planning from the outset" should not immediately be brought to bear, "unless there are to be the same dreary failures as in the past." "The opportunity," he said, "must be taken of clearing away many areas of inferior houses which have been badly shattered, and of providing lay-outs and new dwellings which shall give the fullest possibilities of healthy lives for our people."

But this aim, with which there can be no difference of opinion, opens up wide differences of thought as to the means best to be employed and, indeed, of the very type of lay-outs and dwellings which do most conduce to healthy lives. More, it calls into question the methods and organisation employed to those ends hitherto. More has been done in the name of planning and re-housing during the last twenty years than ever before. Yet can the result be called other than a ghastly mistake if the "healthy lives of the people" be understood in any but the narrowest physical sense? Are the fullest possibilities of healthy living—including intellectual stimulus, social contacts, the community sense—afforded by the scores of square miles of semi-detachment in one-class housing estates? by the concentration of the nation's economic life and entertainment into a few square miles of one city? by the seeping outwards of every town along roads and over farms, however fertile, whether sanctioned by a town-planning scheme or not? And are the dwellings of these last twenty years, each asserting independence with its gabled bow-window and fenced front garden, to be the pattern for millions more like unto themselves?

There is plenty to decide before a brick is laid to repair the damage of war. The Bressey-Lutyens plan can be taken as a basis for the new lay-out of London, but it is not decided whether its new streets are to be built piecemeal or as architectural units and, if so, in brave new guise of glass and concrete or with a grammar bearing some relation to English tradition. For the country as a whole we want new towns that are towns, not vast dormitories, with country that is real country between them, both elements in the nation's life planned to each other's as well as their own advantage. Planning, it has been proved, in Mr. Thomas Sharp's words ("Town Planning," *Penguin Series*), "can never be successful by beginning with the lowest unit and working slowly through to the greatest. It must begin at the top and spread downwards with ever-increasing detail, on a national basis and extend through the region to the town, village, and parish." National roads, national parks, agriculture, afforestation, the location of industry, all demand a supreme planning authority to make the crucial decisions at the top, and it is there that a Ministry of Public Works is the only competent authority—having previously been entrusted with the town-planning powers of the Ministry of Health and the road-making powers of the Ministry of Transport.

## COMPULSORY INSURANCE

MR. CHURCHILL'S declaration on the subject of "war insurance" was an enlightening and, at the same time, heartening comment on the first eleven months of the air war. We know from his latest speech to the House that we cannot afford the least relaxation of tension in "the awful hazards in which we stand." That is by now almost what a lawyer would call "common form." But when we are told how the rate of casualty is declining so far as ourselves and our fellows are concerned, and assured that air-raid damage to property has been so much less than had been contemplated (even when the Prime Minister made his previous statement a month or two ago) that we can now go forward with a scheme of compulsory insurance both of fixed and of mobile property, we can face the "awful hazards" with a new sense of reassurance. Why, asked Mr. Churchill, should we have the whole value of the buildings of this country simultaneously and universally discounted and discredited by the shadow of a sporadic sky vulture? "Financially improvident and fiscally insane" was the description he applied to the policy of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. An appropriate charge, he said, levied on the capital value of buildings would provide a fund by which everybody could be covered, and covered in retrospect. The details of the charges have yet to be made known, and it is not unlikely that the scheme will be condemned in some quarters on the ground that it really amounts to a new tax on property-holders which will cost a great deal to collect, whereas the same sum might much more easily be acquired by the Treasury through established channels. The present opinion of the City, however, is undoubtedly that it will tend to establish and increase confidence in the economic stability of fixed property. The further proposal to provide insurance against war risks to mobile property—so far as it refers to replaceable plant and machinery—is also welcomed. Its extension to "household effects and other personal possessions which are not at present protected by insurance" is a matter which the House of Commons may be trusted to examine very thoroughly in committee.

## EAGLES AND VULTURES

THE said "vultures of the air"—a good phrase—are to be matched by a squadron of Eagles. It is most cheering and stimulating news that the R.A.F. is to be strengthened by a squadron composed entirely of pilots from the United States and commanded by an American officer. No less stimulating is their badge of the spread eagle and their title of the Eagle Squadron. Mr. Churchill has a happy gift for these similes from the animal kingdom, for in the same speech occurred his fine reference to our troops in reserve behind the beaches, "like leopards crouching to spring at the invader's throat." We in this country, with our distrust of anything that seems like *gasconade*, are perhaps a little afraid of these sonorous titles, and that is really a pity, for, apart from their stirring and romantic sound, they can help to produce pride and *esprit de corps*. Once upon a time we were not so reserved, when we called the greatest of our prize-fighters the Game Chicken and our runners were Deerfoot or the Suffolk Stag or the North Star. By all means let us have more Eagle Squadrons, alike in fact and in name.

## ST. PAUL'S

LONDON'S reaction to the bomb which has destroyed the high altar of St. Paul's Cathedral is certainly not what the Nazis might have anticipated, supposing that it had been aimed at the altar, which is out of the question. Very possibly the Cathedral as a whole is included among the objectives sought by the enemy in his avowed purpose of breaking London's morale. They failed on this occasion again—as with the time bomb excavated by the now famous band of sappers—to damage the fabric; but, Fate directed, they struck unerringly at what might be supposed to be the sacred heart of the edifice. As a token of what Nazidom stands for, the event is supremely eloquent; as a moral blow it is worth precisely the material damage—for the Christian faith does not rest upon visible symbols. But it could not have been more surely aimed to fire the entire Christian world against the German Antichrist.

## A BRIEF FOR THE HARD-HIT

THE number of churches that have been destroyed or suffered serious damage in raids is already very considerable not only in London and its suburbs but in many of the provincial cities and coast towns. While reconstruction is out of the question now, first-aid repairs must be taken in hand wherever possible; but the problem is not merely one of making damaged buildings water-tight, but of bringing help to the parishes hardest hit not only by bombs but by the migration of most of their population. At his Diocesan Conference last week the Archbishop of Canterbury (who revealed, incidentally, that Lambeth Palace, though not an historic part of it, has been damaged by a bomb) indicated some of the measures which will be taken, and he has already asked the more fortunate parishes in his diocese to come to the help of those in need. In old days, when some calamity occurred—a flood or a conflagration—a "brief" would be issued and circulated throughout a diocese, or even the whole kingdom, appealing for subscriptions. These briefs were read in churches, and the parishioners put their gift into the bag—or, rather, some such collecting-box as those in a Somerset church illustrated in our Correspondence pages last week. The Archbishop's plan will in effect be a revival of this old and admirable method of sharing in the relief of others' misfortunes.

## PROTECTING OLD STAINED GLASS

IN reading of the sad fate of so many churches there is the minor consolation that many of those less seriously damaged have been forcibly deprived of some of the worst specimens of Victorian stained glass. Bombs have done the work which in some cases church councils and incumbents would secretly have liked to do themselves. Unfortunately the Nazi airmen cannot be depended on to discriminate over





THE HIGH ALTAR OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL AFTER IT HAD BEEN STRUCK BY A GERMAN BOMB LAST WEEK. The Reredos, which is little damaged, and altar were designed by Thomas Garner when in partnership with G. F. Bodley at the end of last century

matters of taste any more than over lives. Liverpool Cathedral has lost many of its fine modern windows, and the remaining old glass of Westminster Abbey and the lovely Early Renaissance east window of St. Margaret's would have shared the same fate if the authorities had not had them removed in time. Measures have been taken at Canterbury and at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, where the immense task of removing all the famous windows is now very nearly completed. The position at York, however, is not so satisfactory. York possesses about one-half of the surviving old stained glass in the country, and although the Dean and Chapter have been taking out as quickly as possible the windows of the Minster, those in the parish churches are still for the most part *in situ*. An appeal is being made to raise £3,000 for the removal, storage and replacement after the war of these windows, about fifty in number. Canon F. Harrison, Chancellor of York Minster, will be glad to receive contributions to the fund.

#### THE PRISONER TO THE SINGING BIRD

(The soldier-author is a military prisoner of war in Norway.)

Sing on, sing on beyond the walls  
That I within may know  
Spring is in the woods again  
Where you may go.

Sing on, sing on; then in my cage  
I shall delight to hear  
That you are glad and free out there—  
So near, so near!

J. BUXTON.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

HITLER would no doubt say that we have to thank a certain German, Johann Gutenberg, for the fact that a "library of books" is not so indispensable to the human race as it once was. Everybody who is fond of them, however, must have been as profoundly shocked to hear that the hundred thousand books in University College Library had gone up in flames as they were in 1933 to know that the Universities of Berlin and the rest of "Greater Germany" were being systematically raided by hooligans and cranks and their most precious contents made the basis of nightly students' bonfires. We have had similar shocks before, of course. Eminent English authors have found, too late, that their most precious manuscripts have been sacrificed by indiscriminating housekeepers for the lining of pie-dishes, and we cannot forget that Alexandria was once the capital city of the world. According to the *Encyclopædia Britannica* "the well-known tale of how the famous library was used for six months to supply the furnaces of the public baths is

now regarded as doubtful, in view of the many calamities which the collection had already suffered." Whether or not the *Encyclopædia* is right, it is always a subject for enthralling conjecture, what the development of Western civilisation might have been had the Alexandrian libraries survived. To-day, fortunately for the non-barbarian races, the records of the past are completely secure; and that fact must give us confidence to know that what man has once achieved, even when it cannot be matched, may still be bettered. As for our own libraries, they have otherwise suffered little. The new wing of the Bodleian is now open, and the Reading Room at the Museum is functioning almost as usual.

#### CONTACTING

SURELY one of the minor evils of the war is the ever-increasing use of the bastard verb "to contact." Even Government departments, we are given to believe, have fallen a victim to the odious vice and spend their lives in "contacting," after a decent interval, those who have written to them on urgent business. The habit of turning nouns into verbs has been steadily growing on us as a nation, and we have long had to endure "glimpsing" and "savouring"; but this is the last straw. It is undeniable that this new expression has its conveniences. It is shorter than "getting in touch with," in itself a not very attractive expression, and "meeting" has not necessarily quite the same significance, because, to pile horror upon horror, you can "contact" a man by "phoning" him. Let us nevertheless try to draw the line somewhere.

## A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

Parachuting Spiders—Military Cobwebs—Spare Bootlaces—Home Guards and Grouse

BY MAJOR C. S. JARVIS.

CONSIDERABLE amusement was created among the Home Guard of a southern county recently over the issue of an urgent warning from higher command to the effect that, during the night, enemy aircraft had sown gossamer threads throughout the countryside, which were suspected of being poisonous. The gossamer threads that caused the scare were those floating filaments of spider's web known in France as *les fils de la Vierge*, which are a feature of the first real autumn morning of the year, when, after a heavy dew and drop in the temperature, every blade of grass, every twig, and also every spider's web carries its burden of moisture. The result is almost as startling and unusually beautiful as the silver thaws we experienced last winter, and it provides convincing proof of the enormous number of spiders of many varieties there are in this land.

Their work is more obvious on the gorse bushes than anywhere else, where a species known as *Linyphia marginata* spins on every branch a flat platform of web with a *cheval de frise* of interlaced spirals above it. To the uninitiated it seems that these intricate structures must have been all built in one night, for one is not aware of any webs in the gorse until the right sort of morning in September discloses the fact that there is almost more glistening white web than gorse leaves, and that the spider population must exist in millions.

It was the gossamer threads and not the webs, apparently, that mystified higher command, and these, I believe, are a form of parachute used by young spiders to launch themselves out on the world. They wait for some change in the temperature that causes their threads of *floculi* to be lighter than the air, and away they float into the great world in search of adventure and their form of matrimony that ends in death. I make this flowery statement with all reservations, for I know nothing about spiders, and possibly some arachnologist will point out that the female of this particular species is not addicted to husband-eating, but is, on the other hand, a model wife.

\* \* \*

THE mention of spiders' webs in connection with the military mind recalls the old story of the inspecting general and the undefeated company sergeant-major. The general, a stickler for cleanliness and perfect neatness, was going round the barrack-rooms of a certain infantry regiment, and was having a most unsuccessful morning in his hunt for dirt and neglect, for the rooms were spotless with everything in its right place. Then suddenly his face lit up, and he pointed to a corner of the room with his cane.

"A cobweb!" he said accusingly to the colonel.

The colonel turned to the O.C. company, the O.C. Company to the subaltern, and the subaltern to the company sergeant-major responsible for the room and this blot on the regiment.

"Yes sir, a cobweb," said the sergeant-major cheerfully. "We always keep one in every room in case a man cuts his finger."

The frustrated general moved on to the next room, and here he found real reason for complaint. He pointed to the four corners of the ceiling, stabbing the air with his cane.

"Where's your cobweb?" he shouted.

\* \* \*

HERE is another story of an inspecting general and the same undefeated sergeant-major, who had returned to the service at the beginning of the last war with his ability to frustrate generals in no way impaired by his interval of civil life. There had been a surprise inspection of our isolated detachment, which had gone off so well that the general felt suspicious about it. Isolated detachments are usually so fruitful of minor military discrepancies that it seemed obvious there must be a good bit of window-dressing providing an imposing façade to hide untold things behind.

Then the general had a bright inspiration. He saw a very old soldier on the marching-order parade carrying one of those symmetrically perfect packs with squared sides that, in the old days, meant usually a fake made up with small cardboard boxes and folded paper. The

general was just as old a soldier as the owner of the pack, and he felt he was on to a certainty.

"Fall that man out and make him lay out his pack," he ordered.

The man did so, and the general was proved to be wrong in his surmise, for the kit was not a fake, but a masterpiece of perfection with everything in order. The general hunted for the various articles—polishing-brushes, spare shirts and socks, and the button brass—but they were all there. Then he had another flash of inspiration.

"Where are your spare bootlaces?" he asked, and this was his round, for, alas! these small but very necessary adjuncts to the perfect soldier were missing. The scene that followed was too terrible to relate, but it transpired among other things that we were a dirty, disorderly, half-dressed mob, and that we were deliberately helping to lose the war.

For some weeks afterwards the sergeant-major went around looking depressed and *distract*, and then the general returned for another inspection, and, inspired by his success over the pack, tried the same methods again. As a good soldier he should have known that a fresh line of attack was indicated.

On this occasion the pack was perfect, but when the general played his ace of trumps and asked to see the spare bootlaces, the old soldier selected placed his fingers in a cunningly devised pocket in the hold-all and drew out a pair. He then put his hand in another corner and drew out a second pair; from the pocket of his jacket he produced a third; the top of his puttees were secreting a fourth; and he was drawing a fifth from the lining of his cap when the general walked away with his

face working. It was the sergeant-major's round on points, and the knock-out as well.

\* \* \*

I READ in one of our daily journals recently of a Home Guardsman who was prosecuted under the poaching laws for shooting a grouse with a rifle while on duty, and his fine with costs came to £12. This would seem to be a rather savage penalty for one grouse, and one hopes the Home Guardsman's spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice has not received a setback in consequence. If a man voluntarily spends his early mornings and late evenings in the service of his country, patrolling bleak moorlands, one should not regard it as a very serious crime if occasionally he allows his sporting instincts to get the better of his sense of what is right and proper on privately owned moors.

Those of us who have had anything to do with musketry instruction will realise that a Home Guardsman who can hit a small object like a grouse with a rifle bullet from a Service rifle is the type of man who will be able to put a bullet through the loophole of a tank or hit its periscope, and one has the feeling that such men should be encouraged and not prosecuted. There should be some reward for marksmanship of this order, and the least that could be done is to let the Home Guardsman have the grouse and say nothing about it. However, perhaps I am barking up the wrong tree: for the last fifty years the journalists of our daily papers have persisted in the belief that grouse are shot with the rifle and not with the scatter gun, and, as some of the Home Guard are still armed with this humble weapon, perhaps this is only another instance of the hoary "crack of the rifle on the moors."

## A SCHOOL OF PUPPETRY

### A SIDELIGHT ON THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

ONE of the temptations of war-time is to take the short view—to limit every activity and confine every thought to something obviously concerned with our present stresses and distresses. Nothing, of course, could be worse for us or more likely to impair our usefulness at the present time. Minds want change of thought as much as bodies want change of food and air if they are to function satisfactorily, and the sane sound mind will help to keep sound the body that houses it; to think of war needs only is to forget that a time is surely coming when they will be a thing of the past, when a new and better life will be beginning, and, if we have kept none of our happier activities in being, we shall face the demands of peace with empty hands and arid minds.

Looked at superficially, a school of puppetry being held last summer might have seemed something that, in these days, only a Nero could encourage, but actually that is far from being the case. Hundreds—no, thousands—of children have had their education sadly interrupted in these last months, have run wild, and nearly forgotten what discipline means. For them something fresh, unexpected, using both hand and brain, may prove a possible way back to the more usual studies. The Roel Holiday School of Puppetry is chiefly attended by people interested in education, and the students may carry home to their scholars a fascinating interest, an employment for fingers and minds, and a means of affording entertainment in the dark days of winter, not only to themselves and their school-mates, but to many—soldiers and evacuees—who are living in lonely places far from commercially sponsored amusements.

This puppet art is a very old one—Horace described a puppet in the words: "a bit of wood moved by strings in someone else's hands"—and it has ancient roots in British tradition. From that point of view there is much to be said for it, but in spite of that, during the first years of this century it was in a sad



(Above) A GUITING POWER AUDIENCE SETTLES DOWN TO ENJOY A STUDENTS' PUPPET SHOW



(Left) "A TEAM OF LITTLE ATOMIES." GUITING POWER STUDENTS TAKE THEIR PUPPETS FOR AN AIRING

state of decay. To people of the older generation alive to-day puppets were dear. These are people to whose childhood the magic lantern was a marvel, particularly those slides where one actor, perhaps a mouse attacking a cheese, could be made to run about the screen. To them any puppet show was huge delight, and the fact that it was most generally "Punch and Judy" who appeared at children's parties and held them spellbound made no difference. Here, to childhood was the appearance of small creatures acting as they chose, for to children the man behind the curtain has little or no connection with the actors, at least while the show is in progress. It is an attitude that most puppet masters come to adopt, too, as Hans Andersen knew well. But a new generation arose. The little clans of the puppets and marionettes had fallen on evil





PUPPETS ENJOYING THEMSELVES



THE APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE

plays, and the cinema as it took hold of public interest seemed likely to stamp them wholly out of existence; even Punch's cheerful squeak, "Ello, 'ello, 'ello," was heard at the street corners less and less frequently. Only one or two amateurs, looked upon as somewhat fond for their interest in them, kept puppets alive.

Then the tide turned. Gordon Craig, Laurence Binyon and their helpers have done much to raise the standard of puppetry and, in particular, of the interest and originality of the figures; Norman Wilkinson and Frank Worth have carried them through many of the counties of England and Scotland; the Eton puppets inspired by Robin Darwin helped to lead the way in regard to their place in schools; and before the present war began the interest in puppets—from the point of view of the making and handling and working of them—was broadening down into something that promised very well for their survival.

Four years ago, with Sir Barry Jackson as its sponsor, the Roel Summer School of Puppetry was started at the Gloucestershire village of Guiting Power in the Cotswolds. In 1932 a barn on Roel Farm in this village had been converted by Miss Olive Blackham and a band of enthusiasts into a private puppet theatre and workshop which has been extraordinarily successful. Roel puppets have performed all over the country, and in 1937 they were chosen by the British Puppet Guild to

represent Great Britain in a series of puppet shows at the great Paris Exhibition. Guiting Power was then an ideal choice for the Summer School, the course of which lasts a fortnight. During their training the students learn to

of course, as audiences at the puppet plays, they have an entertainment in their midst such as few villages can boast. At the end of their course the students, though very far from having mastered all the mysteries and acquired all the technique of their art, know enough to be able to teach themselves more by practice and to help learners to reach their own standard. Both education and amusement are going to be hard to come by for years ahead of us now, and puppet making and showing, the writing of puppet plays, with the opportunity they offer for satire, for local allusions, even for serious comment on the ways of our days will be worth encouraging. The demands that the puppet-master's art makes on him are many and varied, and it will be all to the good that in it ingenuity, adaptability and wit are the keys to success, rather than influence or a well filled purse.

The photographs that appear with this article show some typical faces and poses among the audiences at Guiting Power; old and young alike seem to feel the attraction of these little strutting creatures, which take on so odd an air of life when they are skillfully manipulated. Already searchlight and anti-aircraft batteries not to be reached by Ensa have benefited from that insatiable desire for a show which every puppeteer feels in his little atomies and no doubt thanks to the Roel Summer School, many more will do so in the months ahead.



MR. FRANK WORTH GIVING THE AUDIENCE A PEEP BEHIND THE SCENES

make puppets, to rehearse them, and finally to produce a full-length play. The village hall is lent to the school as a workshop, and the villagers are quite accustomed to seeing practising students leading along the lanes strange double-jointed little animals and people, while,



THE ARMY ACKNOWLEDGES THE PUPPETS' CHARM



THE OLD ARE JUST AS MUCH AS INTERESTED AS THE YOUNG



# HOMES AFTER THE WAR

A PROJECT FOR A COUNTRY HOUSE

By  
HOWARD ROBERTSON,  
F.R.I.B.A.



*Last week, Mr. John Summerson reviewed some of the tendencies which had become apparent in the last twenty years of domestic architecture and suggested that the lines on which a successful post-war style could be built up are already fairly clear.*

AT the moment we are faced with a blank period during which nothing except defence buildings, factories and camps are likely to be built. Architects, however, are not to be pinned down exclusively to the present, and some, at any rate, are forming in their minds a fairly clear idea of what they hope and intend to build in the days ahead. And so we have asked a group of well known architects to set down, for the benefit of COUNTRY LIFE readers, what sort of houses they look forward to building. We have given them no conditions—for who is going to be bold enough to hazard what post-war conditions will be?—but asked them simply to express the kind of architecture which they feel will fit a world in which there are no longer any Hitlers, in which construction at last steels the headlines from destruction, and in which, if nobody is very rich, everyone, at any rate, will be rich in hope. The first of these castles-in-the-post-war-air is illustrated on this and the following page. It is the work of Mr. Howard Robertson.

This is a design for a house on an out-of-town site, with views best seen from the upper floors. Hence the principal rooms are arranged in an unusual way. The main living-room, a magnificent space nearly 40ft. long, is on the first floor, and forms, both verti-

cally and horizontally, the centre of the house. On the ground floor, the only living-room is the dining-room; while the second floor consists entirely of the owner's bedroom suite, a private, luminous eyrie, with its own outdoor terraces.

The remaining rooms group themselves naturally round these principal elements. On the ground floor are the kitchen domain, garage, bicycle sheds, and heating plant. An A.R.P. shelter (forgive the architect's apparent mistrust of humanity's will to peace!) is planned beneath the reinforced concrete floor of the garage. It gives on to an area beneath an open passage through the ground floor, thus eliminating danger from blast. The shelter could serve as a store or work room in normal times, and would have its independent ventilation and gas filtration plant. It is reached by the main staircase.

At first-floor level the house shrinks to a smaller area. Over the kitchen is a flat roof forming a western terrace to the living-room, with steps to the garden. On the east is a self-contained guest wing. A small recess is designed as a study, and there are rooms for three servants.

The basic idea in the plan is the provision of ample rooms and terraces in a not over-large house. Subsidiary rooms and passages are reduced to a

workable minimum, and the whole composition is compact and harmonious. If further bedrooms were required they could be built up over the garage wing without detracting from the design as a whole.

The external finish of the house has been very carefully thought out. It is principally in brick—pale brown on the first (living-room) floor and colour-washed a warm off-white on the ground floor. As a welcome change of texture on the second floor, tile-hanging or weather-boarding—both well tried and charming finishes—are suggested, while the pitched roof could be covered in copper or cedar shingles.

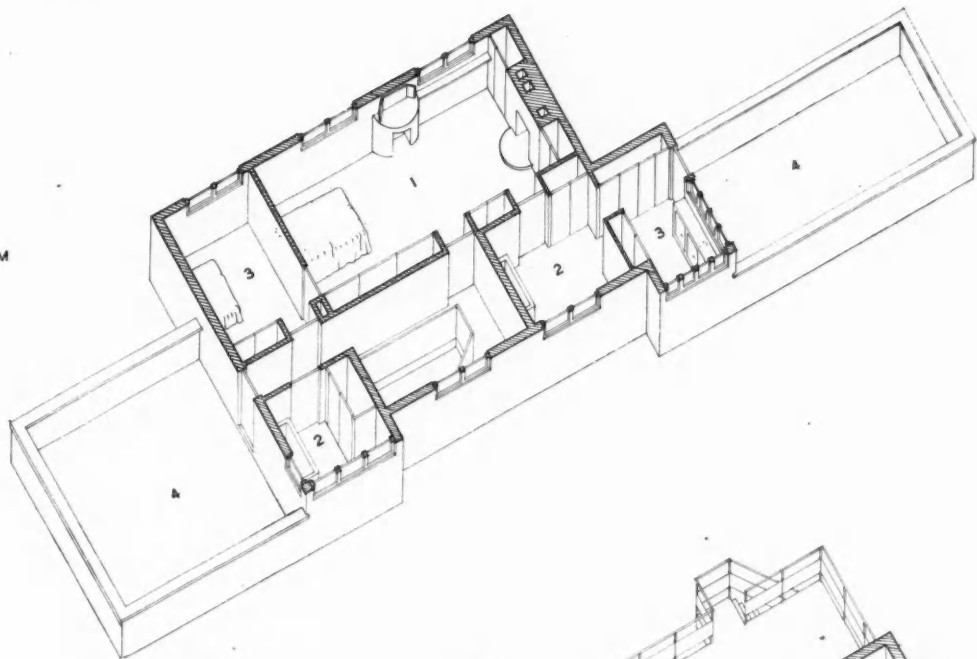
The windows would be preferably in wood, and include different types, sliding double-hung sash, casement doors and pivot-hung. Rooms of different types demand different windows, and the intention is to provide for each section the most appropriate type of window instead of using one set type for all purposes.

The construction could, if necessary, be carried out with an almost total elimination of timber, except for a limited amount of hardwood, and floors and roof would be fire-resisting. The central heating plant would provide separate control for the centre block, the guest wing, and the service wing.



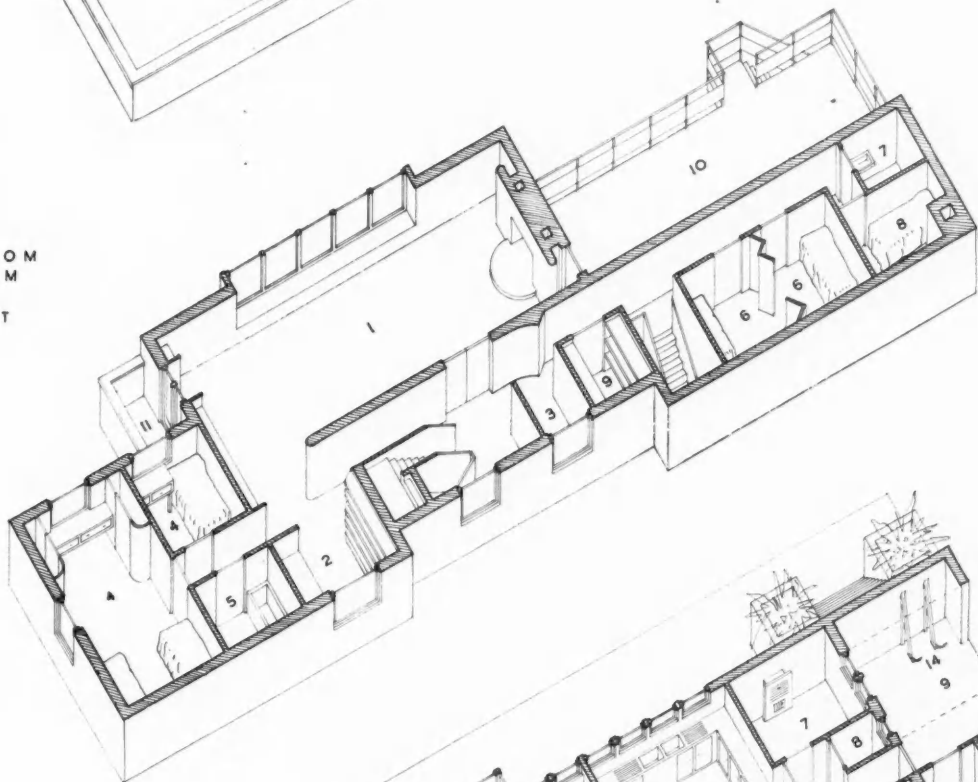
SECOND FLOOR

- 1 BEDROOM
- 2 BATHROOM
- 3 DRESSING ROOM
- 4 TERRACE



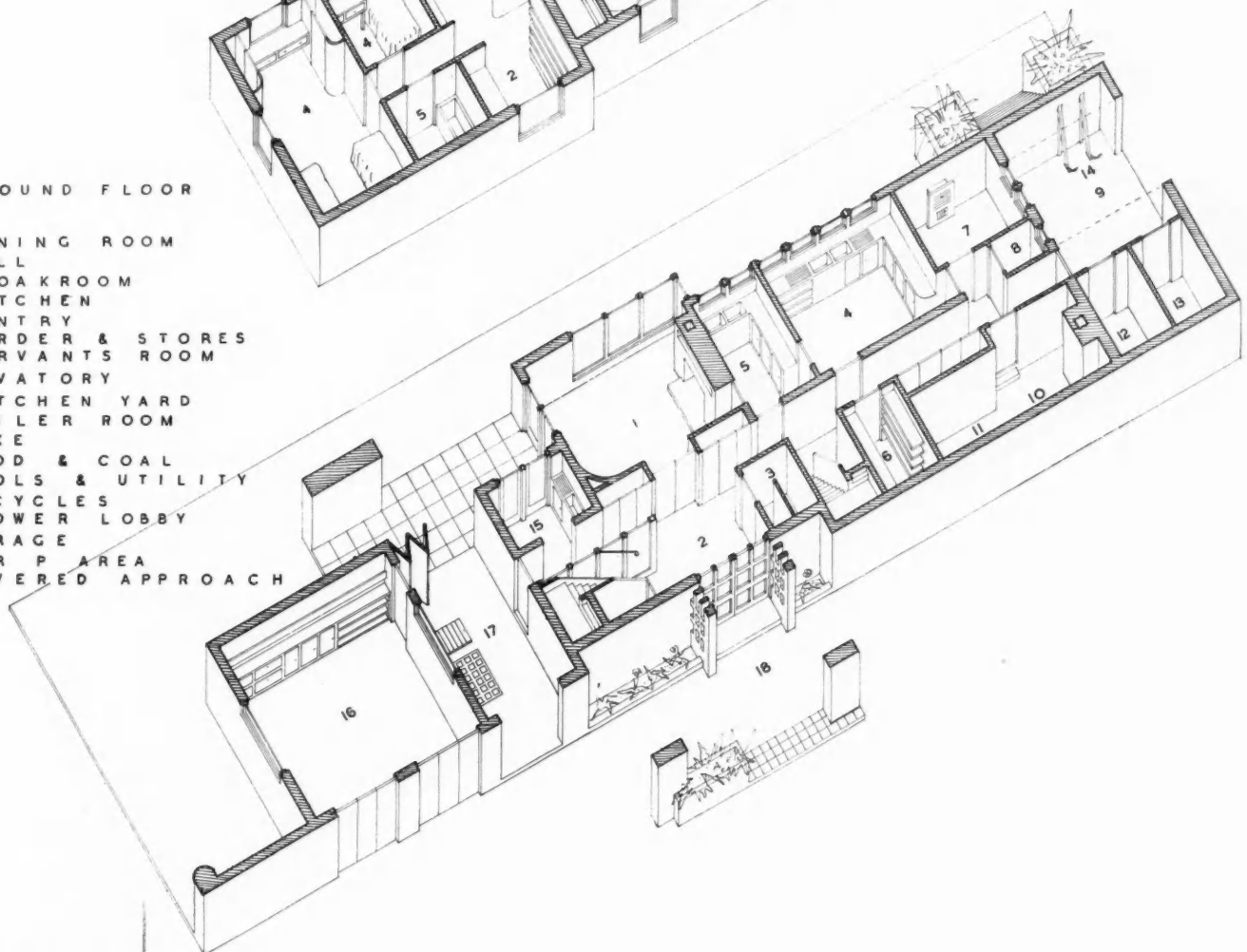
FIRST FLOOR

- 1 LIVING ROOM
- 2 STUDY
- 3 BAR
- 4 GUEST ROOM
- 5 GUEST BATHROOM
- 6 SERVANTS ROOM
- 7 BATHROOM
- 8 SPARE SERVANT
- 9 LINEN
- 10 TERRACE
- 11 BALCONY



GROUND FLOOR

- 1 DINING ROOM
- 2 HALL
- 3 CLOAK ROOM
- 4 KITCHEN
- 5 PANTRY
- 6 LARDER & STORES
- 7 SERVANTS ROOM
- 8 LAVATORY
- 9 KITCHEN YARD
- 10 BOILER ROOM
- 11 COKE
- 12 WOOD & COAL
- 13 TOOLS & UTILITY
- 14 BICYCLES
- 15 FLOWER LOBBY
- 16 GARAGE
- 17 A R P AREA
- 18 COVERED APPROACH



0 5 10 15 20 25  
SCALE

# MIRRORS IN DECORATION

## PERIOD LIGHT ON MODERN WALLS

**F**ROM the time when the Duke of Buckingham established his factory at Vauxhall, during the reign of Charles II, mirror glass has run like a streak of quicksilver through English homes and, as the process developed, its use and its decorative quality have been reflected differently by each succeeding generation.

Our own times have witnessed what might be called an orgy of mirror glass. Whole walls were made of it; bureaux, chests of drawers, mantelpieces, were faced with mirror, pictures framed with it; flexible mosaics of mirror glass appeared on rounded surfaces. In short, the looking-glass room, all restless glitter and cross reflections, was a phase some years back. That was over-doing it; modern houses cannot successfully imitate the *Salle des Glaces* at Versailles; the fashion passed. Yet mirror is not, never has been, nor ever will be a mere passing fashion. For its practical purpose, no less than for its high decorative value, it is an essential.

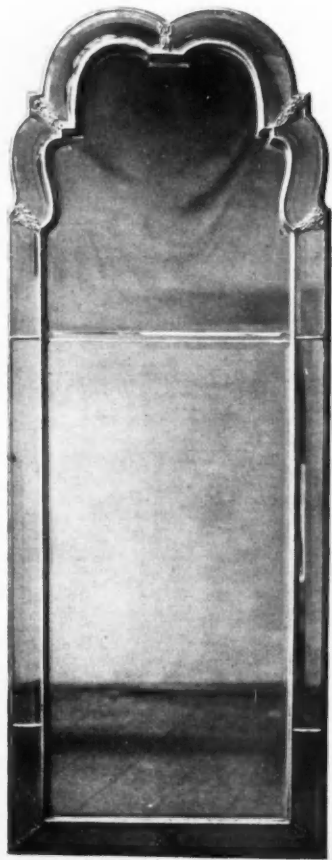
First as a way of bringing light to dark places and thus imparting its own vitality to a dull, inanimate room. In the Morris era of high dadoes, blue china, pseudo-Persian pattern, and mock Gothic furniture, there was a strong and a long reaction against the reigning Victorian passion for looking-glass. Those rooms, admirable as they must have been in many respects, cannot, I fancy, be acquitted of torpor, inertness. By way of proof, let a mirror be removed from its wonted place, and the sudden blank, the deadness of the wall, is a kind of shock each time the room is entered.

After light and liveliness, next comes the effect of additional space and stretched perspectives that a well fixed mirror imparts. How thoroughly this was understood in the Regency period is best illustrated by a quotation from Lady Ilchester's account of the Chinese Room—"gay beyond description"—at the Brighton Pavilion. "At each end of the gallery," she writes, "was a staircase of iron and bamboo with mirrored glass doors beneath. When these doors were shut the gallery seemed to stretch away on either hand in an endless perspective, a continual world of lit lanterns hanging like luminous fruit amid porcelain vases, Indian cabinets, trellis work, illumined lotus flowers and tulips of coloured glass."

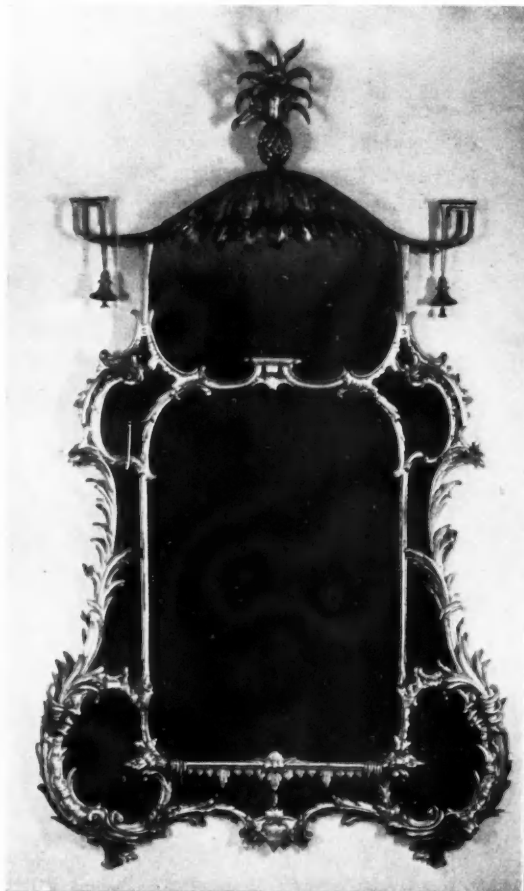
Moreover, as the old mirrors in their lovely frames are among the finest examples of skill, taste and design that have come to us from the past, they are not only a valuable but a safe investment. Most periods of furniture have had their decadence and produced bad chairs, sofas, and pieces that have verged on downright ugliness; but has anybody seen an old mirror to which



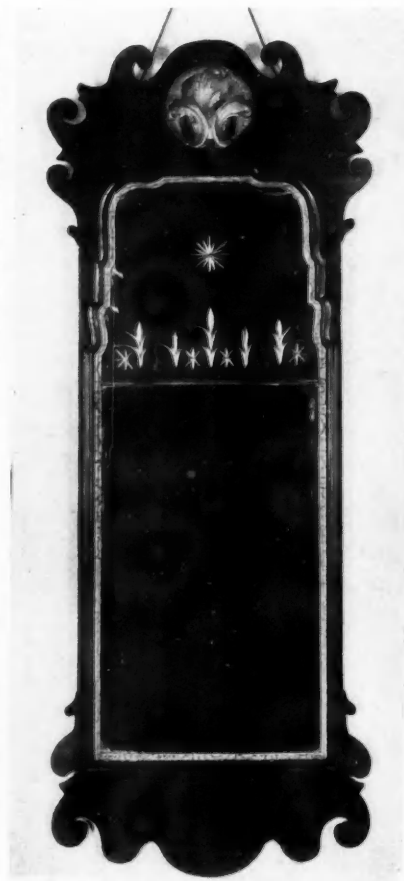
1.—A VAUXHALL GLASS IN A MODERN REGENCY ROOM AT 5, BELGRAVE SQUARE



2.—A SIMPLE WILLIAM AND MARY PIER GLASS IN MIRRORED FRAME



3.—IN THE CHINESE TASTE, CHIP-PENDALE STYLE



4.—AN EASILY MANAGED SIZE George I mirror in walnut frame



that term could be applied? They have the faculty of merging into alien surroundings and there seeming quite at home. An old clock has the same gift, and it is a blessed one.

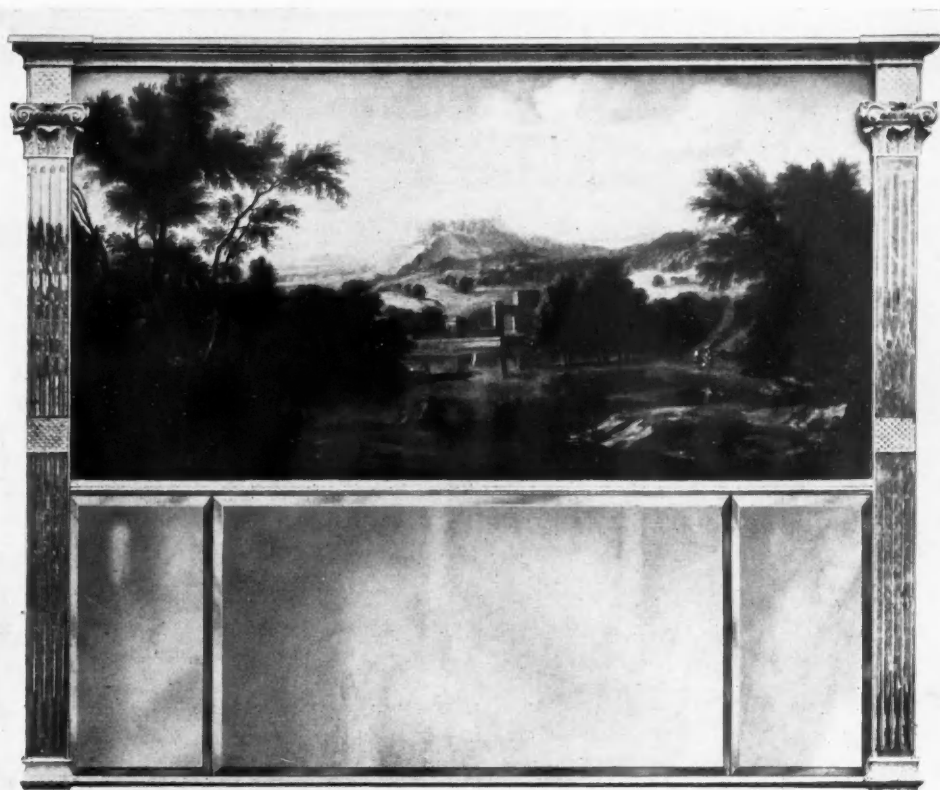
No doubt the architectural quality that marks late seventeenth and early eighteenth century mirrors has to do with their adaptability. Designed as they were, each for its destined position, they are not difficult to place in modern rooms. Quantities of wall mirrors, some with candle sconces, were made about 1715 to 1745 to adorn the panelled walls. Those by Kent and his followers have the classic feeling, and the ornateness, that characterise his door and window framings. Some are gilt, some faced with mahogany or walnut. Gesso came into much of the less costly work.

These squarish oblongs should be hung exactly as a good picture is hung: *e.g.*, neither too high nor too low, according to the proportion of the room. In fact, the rule for picture-hanging applies to the wall mirror: imagine the horizon, and get that line level with "the eye of the spectator." In a manner of speaking, the mirror is a picture, and that fact was fully realised in the eighteenth century. Squares of mirror in gilt picture-frames were hung precisely as pictures on the walls—an admirable cheat-the-eye device which might well be revived to-day.

The long narrow glasses which followed were forerunners of the pier glass which later became almost a standard for every well appointed room. On a table, in that dark strip between the windows, the high mirror was so clearly in exactly the right place that there it has remained, more or less ever since.

In these early and mid-eighteenth-century mirrors, when the plates, owing to technical difficulties, were limited in size, two or more sheets of glass had to be joined for extra length or width. No attempt was made to hide the join—in some it was even stressed by the bevelled edges (Figs. 2 and 5). The bevelling was not sharp-cut; it was soft, flattish, at times almost imperceptible. The glass, which is only about half the thickness of modern plate, has a faint blue-grey tinge, not flattering perhaps to the human countenance, but interesting from the decorator's standpoint.

For the less important houses a shorter oblong plate was framed in mahogany, otherwise it followed more or less the design of Fig. 2—a Queen Anne type of the mirror associated with the Vauxhall works. The same inward curve of the bevelled glass at the top corresponds to the line of the frame, which widens at top and base from the narrow sides. Fig. 4 is a typical example, rather longer than usual, of these mirrors which were very popular



5.—AN OVERMANTEL LANDSCAPE GLASS. Circa 1740

in the first half of the eighteenth century. A trefoil, or more frequently a bird carved in relief and gilt, centres the fret-cut cresting. Simple and English in character and moderate in size, these mirrors blend naturally into the modern interior.

The fashion for a glass specially designed for the mantelshelf came in at that time and, although endless varieties have been made in succeeding years, nothing more beautiful than the landscape or *trumeau* mirror has been invented. It was long and low, the bevelled glass in three sections, in a narrow gilt or walnut frame. In Fig. 5 the frame has flanking pilasters and the romantic painting is typical of the age. Fig 6 with its convex mirror is a variation of the same theme.

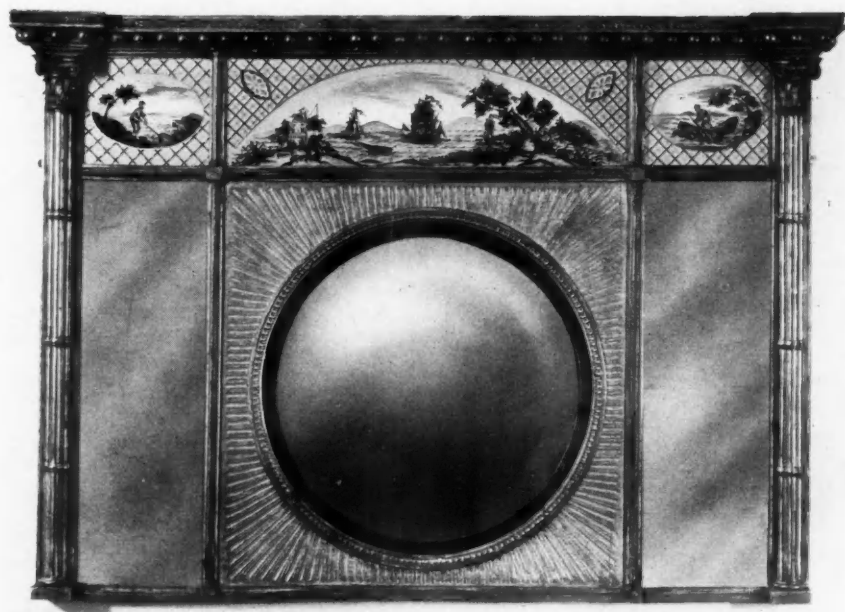
From about 1790 quantities of small, low and long overmantel glasses were made for everyman's home. A stumpy pilaster at each side supports a concave moulded cornice filled with a row of gilt balls. Close representations can be seen in the contemporary illustrations to Dickens; some with balls, some without.

Framed often in bird's-eye maple touched with gilding, these mirrors are pretty things for the modern cottage.

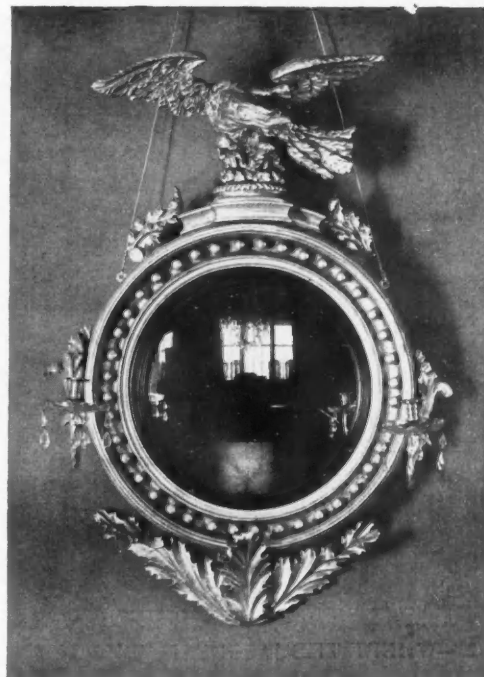
Another later eighteenth-century favourite, the round convex mirror, shows the ball arrangement (Fig. 7). This, with its eagle and ornate frame, was copied and remained a favourite during a great part of the nineteenth century. Fine examples have their place in the scheme to-day.

Mirrors by Chippendale and his school are less easy to acclimatise. The excessively rococo forms, the restless, undercut scrollings and leafage are not in keeping with the more sober inclinations of the present day. Yet with a little care, one of these lovely mirrors can be made the focus of a scheme. Fig. 3 shows what Chippendale could do with a blend of rococo and the Chinese taste, a strange amalgam, but so perfect in balance and proportion that no incongruity is felt. A. T. WOLFE.

The illustrations, with the exception of Fig. 1, are by courtesy of Messrs. M. Harris.



6.—A CONVEX GLASS IN A GILT FRAMEWORK. REGENCY



7.—CIRCULAR CONVEX MIRROR. Circa 1800

# OLD BELSAY CASTLE

## NORTHUMBERLAND

*The Castle, built about the middle of the fourteenth century, has been described as "the finest of northern English tower houses." It passed to Sir John Middleton in 1391, and a residential wing was added in 1614, which was the home of the Middleton family until the building of the existing house in 1817*

### 1.—BELSAY CASTLE IN ITS PRIME

From a sketch by Henry Swinburne, circa 1820



**T**HE old Castle of Belsay lies at the north end of the pleasure grounds, formed in the nineteenth century in connection with the great Regency house, and is a spectacular culmination to their picturesque beauty. But to appreciate the full architectural interest of this massive tower we must go back to the very beginning of Middleton family history and get some idea of conditions on the Border in the years preceding and following the Battle of Bannockburn, though that particular landmark of

history had no direct bearing on the Castle and its lords.

Early in the previous century, in about 1226, two brothers, John and Richard Middleton, married the two daughters of Walter the Scot of Belsay, and each inherited half the property. Richard, the younger, was a clerk and a lawyer in the service of the King, Henry III, and, after holding a succession of high offices, was Chancellor of England 1270-72. He bought up his brother's moiety of Belsay—the latter's son having inherited

another estate by marriage—and added to the property by purchase, including that of adjoining Bitchfield. But in 1318 the great-grandson of the Chancellor forfeited his estates for participation with his cousin, Sir Gilbert de Middleton, in one of the spasmodic rebellions occasioned by Edward II's misrule. Gilbert met with the fate of revolutionaries of his period. He was one of the last men in this country to be "hung, drawn and quartered," and Belsay was given to Sir John Crumbewell, Constable of the Tower of London, and Thomas de Bamburgh, King's Clerk, for their lives; and later, by Edward III, to Sir John de Strivelyn, one of his military commanders and some time Constable of Edinburgh Castle. The latter, on his death in 1391, settled Belsay on Sir John Middleton, who is presumed to have been the grandson of the last Middleton possessor of the Castle, and is held to have married Strivelyn's eventual heiress, though this is not known for certain.

The complexities of these seventy years have had to be indicated because it was during this interregnum that this exceptionally interesting Castle was built, or at least planned and partly completed. The late Sir Arthur Middleton's monograph "An Account of Belsay Castle," is the leading work on the tower, but Mr. W. Douglas Simpson's recent study (*Archæologia Eliana*, 1940, "Belsay Castle and the Scottish Tower-houses") brings out more clearly wherein its interest lies. In the later mediæval period the trend of English castle-building was away from the conception of a donjon, great tower or keep, so characteristic of Norman arrangements, towards a fortified courtyard enclosure, of which Barnwell Castle, near Oundle, built in 1264 (and now the home of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester), is typical, with the lord's residence incorporated in an elaborated gate-house. By 1350 this plan had proved unsatisfactory and was being replaced by the more extensive courtyard type of which Bodiam (1386) is the most perfect example. Subsequently the feudal anarchy of the Wars of the Roses encouraged a reversion to the "strong tower," outstanding examples being added to already existing castles at Warkworth, Tattershall, Buckden, and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, for instance.

But in the north of England, along the Scottish border, the Norman tradition of a square keep was retained even till the sixteenth century, while in Scotland the tower-house plan may be said to have been standard for a nobleman's residence till far into the seven-



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"Country Life"

2.—WHERE THE JACOBEOAN WING JOINS THE TOWER. It conceals a recess between the south-west and north-west turrets in which was the original entrance to the Castle





3.—LOOKING SOUTH-EAST FROM THE CASTLE ROOF



Copyright 4.—FROM THE SOUTH-EAST. THE FOURTEENTH-CENTURY TOWER AND JACOBEOAN WING. "Country Life"  
The fine ilex tree on the right must be 200 years old





5.—THE NORTH SIDE

teenth century, as, for example, at Craigevar. The origin of the Scottish tower-house is obscure, no stone keeps surviving of earlier date than the fourteenth century. Their subsequent development on the familiar L plan (or its earlier form, the U) seems certainly to have been influenced by the English experiments at Belsay and its neighbour Chipchase, even if it did not actually derive from them. Certainly nothing in Scotland survives from so early a date which so closely foreshadows castles like Glamis, Crathes and, in respect of plan, Borthwick. We have only to imagine an upper story planted on the machicolations of Belsay, and conical roofs set on the angle turrets, to get a typical Scottish castle of the sixteenth-seventeenth centuries.

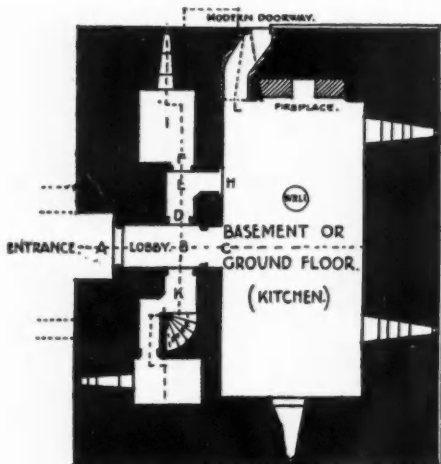
Beyond question, says Mr. Simpson, the

finest of the northern English tower-houses is Belsay. In view of what seems to be its importance as a link between English and Scottish castles, its own ancestry becomes significant, and we have seen that, during the years when it must have been designed, it was in the hands of soldiers in close touch with the latest developments in castle design: the Constable of the Tower of London and the G.O.C. Edinburgh Castle. As we might expect, its closest affinities are with the great Royal castles newly built in Wales. Mr. Simpson says:

Its [Belsay's] date of erection is unknown, but the architectural detail clearly points to the 14th c. and probably to a fairly early date therein. The square-faced masonry is characteristic of the first half of the century; the corbelling of the turrets finds its closest parallel in the Gate next the Sea of Beau-

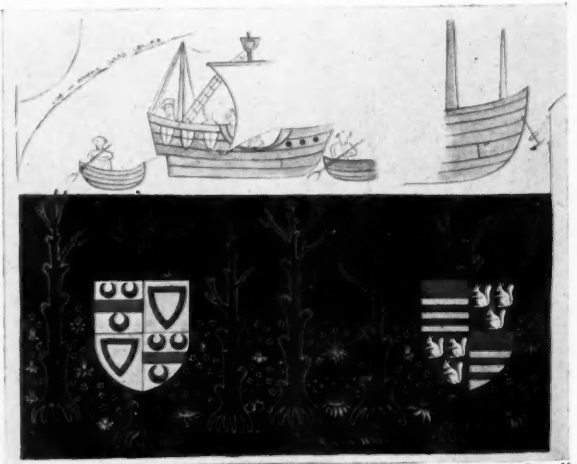
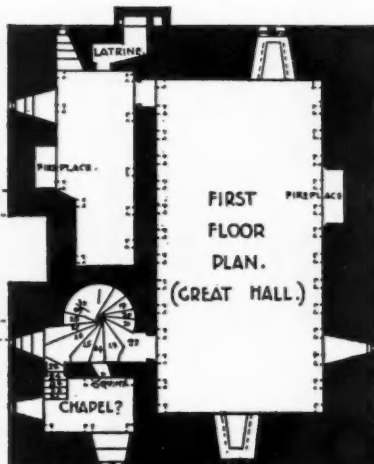
maris Castle, built after 1316, and in the barbican of Harlech Castle, about 1291; while the cope moulding on the merlons is carried round the embrasures in the same way as on the Eagle tower at Caernarvon, 1285-91.

Externally, Belsay looks like an almost square keep with its south-west corner carried up into a tower. This aspect is helped by the filling in of the shallow recess in the west side, in which was the entrance, by the Jacobean house and a tall chimney serving it. The plan should properly be regarded as an oblong with its axis north and south, having two projecting wings on its west side with the entrance between them. The south wing contains the newel stair adjoining the entrance and circling up to the roof, and six small rooms; the other, four apartments—a vaulted cellar opening off the entrance, and three large living-rooms above. The body of the Castle contains a single hall on each of three floors. The vaulted basement hall is the kitchen. But Mr. Simpson believes that it was not originally intended as such, both the big fireplace and the doorway to the entrance lobby having been in the nature of after-thoughts. The room intended to be the kitchen, he thinks, was that on the first floor of the south-west tower, designated the Chapel, which has a hatch giving on to the stairs abreast of the hall door. It would, however, have been very small for a kitchen, and has no chimney as at present built. On the other hand, the change in plan was most likely made before building was completed, there having been an interval of a good many years between the building of the first and second storeys, on the evidence of the masons' marks recorded by Sir Arthur Middleton. The chief argument in favour of this first-floor kitchen is that its position corresponds exactly to that of the kitchen at Chipchase, a neighbouring castle so similar to Belsay that it must have been built by the same master mason. Personally, I cannot believe that a kitchen would have been built without a fireplace, but this room might well have been used as the buttery or pantry. If the basement was originally intended as a storeroom, the kitchen could have been, as was so often the case in early mediæval dwellings, a timber annexe outside. However this may be, it does not seriously affect Mr. Simpson's conclusion that "the plan of Belsay emerges as a singularly ingenious and skilfully articulated adaptation, to a tower framework, of the layout of an ordinary mediæval house, with a central hall having the service accommodation at the lower end, and the solar or lord's private apartment opening off the other." The screens, at the south end of the hall, were lighted by a narrow loop-hole in the east wall opposite the entry from the stairs. The private apartment, which has a fireplace, is given real privacy by opening off the dais end of the hall and having no entry from the stairs. Above the buttery (or kitchen) will have been the servants' rooms; above the



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6.—GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR PLANS



"Country Life"

7.—WALL PAINTINGS IN THE HALL

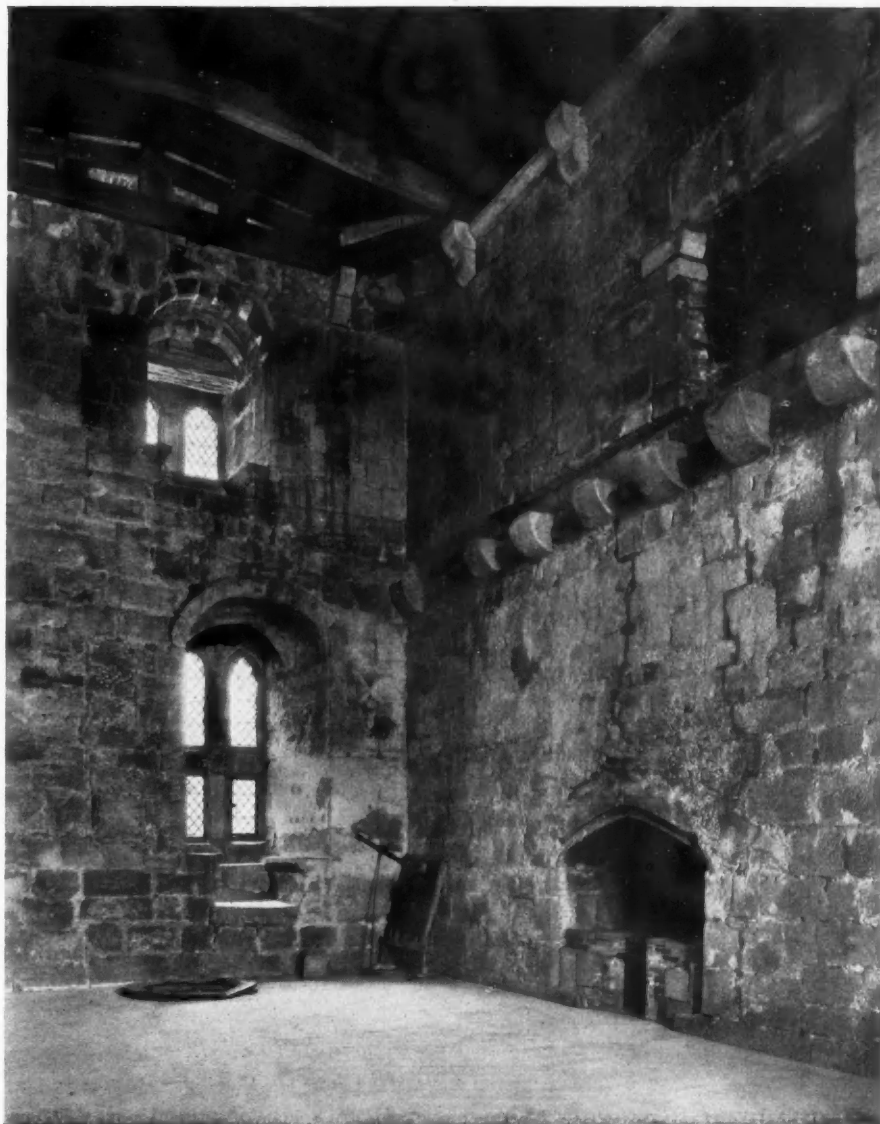
lord's room the principal bedroom. This has an external doorway giving, no doubt, on to a gallery that commanded the entrance. Both this room and the one below it have a latrine in the north wall; none is provided for the service quarters.

Thus "the plan of Belsay is really a highly specialised one. The isolation of the service from the private quarters is complete, the hall separating them and providing the only means of communication between the two departments." Mr. Simpson goes on to point out significant similarities between this remarkable design and that of the grandest of Scottish tower-houses, Borthwick Castle, Midlothian, built in 1430. Into that we cannot follow him, but sufficient has been said to show the position of Belsay in the development of both English and Scottish castle design.

In the absence of more definite records it is impossible to be certain who began and who completed the building. The probabilities are, perhaps, in favour of Sir John Crumbewell and Thomas of Bamburgh as the beginners, and Sir John de Strivelyn as the completer, in which case Sir John Middleton, when he resumed possession of the home of his fathers, found a fine new castle awaiting him.

The interior, though the present roof is a restoration, part of the admirable work of preservation carried out by Sir Arthur Middleton in 1897, and the upper floor is missing (Fig. 8), is remarkably well preserved, even to some interesting, if fragmentary, wall paintings on parts of the upper wall of the hall (Fig. 7). The main scheme, suggestive of tapestry, consists of tree-trunks on a green ground sprinkled with flowers, with armorial shields hanging from some of the trees; among the three faintly decipherable, the arms of Crumbewell, Ogle, and Bertram have been conjecturally identified. A Sir John Middleton married an Ogle in 1425. There are also fragments of a naval frieze, containing fifteenth-century ships and row-boats propelled by paddles.

Four generations of Middletons enjoyed Belsay, holding official and military offices on the Border and surviving the Wars of the Roses, until a Sir John sold Belsay to Sir Thomas



8.—THE HALL AND UPPER ROOM, SHOWING THE NORTH AND EAST SIDES



9.—THE HALL DOOR FROM THE STAIRS



10.—VAULTING AT THE STAIR-HEAD



Darcy in 1503 and left his other property to a certain Agnes Haggerston and her children (who were evidently also his). This shady transaction was somehow reversed by his daughter-in-law and young grandson, who brought a suit against Darcy; the grandson, John, died possessed of Belsay in 1518. It was his great-grandson who, ten years after the union of the two kingdoms, judged that it was safe to quit living in the old tower and added to its west side a modern wing, with large light windows and a two-storeyed porch. Above its arch, now filled in, a panel is inscribed "Thomas Middleton & Dorathy his wife builded this house 1614."

Below it the arms of Middleton quarter Strive-lyn—evidence of the tradition that it was by marriage that Belsay returned to its rightful possessors. The house has been much altered within since the family ceased to live there when the present mansion was built; also a larger and later wing, adjoining to the west and shown in Edward Swinburne's drawing (Fig. 1), has been pulled down, so that conjectures of its internal arrangements would be fruitless.

During the Commonwealth the grandson of Thomas and Dorothy died and was succeeded by an uncle, William Middleton of Edington, created a baronet in 1662. His

son, the second baronet, married the only child of Cromwell's General Lambert, of Calton, near Malham Tarn, who was, besides, a noted gardener, connoisseur, and no mean artist—two flower paintings signed by him hang at Penshurst. Their grandson, the fifth baronet, served with the Royal Horse Guards at Minden—where he was severely wounded, and married the heiress of Laurence Monck of Caenby, Lincs. It was their son who, as related in the first of these articles, took the name of Monck and built the present house, when the later additions to the old Castle were taken down but the mediæval and Jacobean portions carefully preserved.

CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.

## MARRIAGE RITES AMONG BIRDS

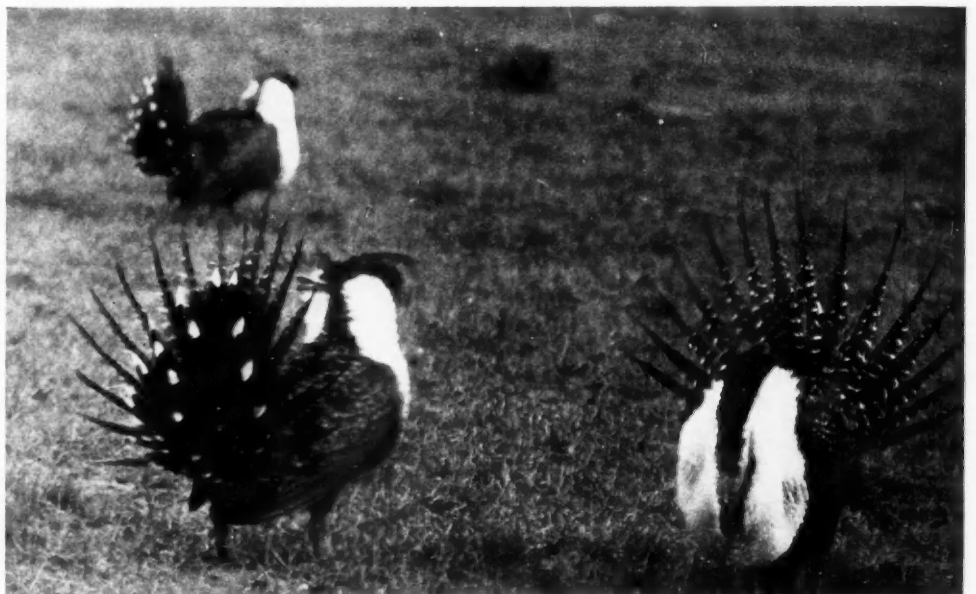
By FRANCES PITT

**T**HE glorious breeding plumages of many birds, their strange adornments, their remarkable displays and quaint courtship antics, have long fascinated scientists and naturalists. Charles Darwin pondered deeply upon the breeding-season activities of birds, especially the behaviour that leads up to the choice of a mate. He cited examples of bird courtship in support of his theory of sexual selection, in which he contended that a female mammal or bird always picks the—in her eyes—best-looking male available, and that the showing-off antics of the male are for the purpose of displaying his charms and thereby winning her.

Since Darwin wrote some eighty years ago scientific opinion on the breeding-season behaviour of birds has been much modified. Some ornithologists now doubt whether much of it is of a courtship nature—that is, for the direct approval of the females, and think it is directed at rival males, that it is a territorial advertisement, and sometimes hardly more than an outlet for the overflowing energy and emotion with which a bird is charged at this season.

The subject is a fascinating, if intricate and difficult, one, and Mr. C. R. Stonor is to be congratulated on his recent contribution to its literature. His just published book, *COURTSHIP AND DISPLAY AMONG BIRDS* (Country Life, 8s. 6d.), tells first in an introductory chapter of the historical approach to the subject and the wide field to be covered, then goes on to the splendours of the male birds of Paradise and the game birds, from which the writer turns to mutual displays between the sexes, next to communal displays and display grounds, and winds up with a chapter on "General Conclusions."

The pages are copiously illustrated with remarkable photographs, such as that of an Australian bustard in full display with great throat pouch distended, and the pictures that



THE SAGE GROUSE HAS A COMMUNAL DISPLAY  
Males strut in the courtship dance

show the fantastic posturing of the great bustard of Europe, which also has a throat pouch. Sage grouse strutting in communal dance likewise catch the attention, and the snapshot of a male heron standing "with stiffened neck and throat plumes erect to attract a mate" cannot be passed without comment. It is the sort of photograph that shows the great value of the camera in the recording of action and incident. The same applies to the plate of the "ceremonial handing over of nesting material by a male heron," a picture of beauty, what with the graceful shapes of the birds, their wind-blown plumes and the setting of pine branches. But the photograph likely to

appeal most to the practical Nature photographer is that of "Wagtails indulging in a combination of a chase and a dance." It is an extraordinarily fortunate and charming shot, and conveys a wonderful impression of joy and springtime high spirits.

High spirits, overflowing emotion, and a joy in life that must have vent are certainly among the factors that move birds to dance, posture and display, particularly in the more social species. There are times, it seems, when the desire for recreation impels birds to "play the fool," as in autumn gatherings of the blackcock, when the birds assemble on their time-honoured tourney ground and joust with



(Above) THE GREAT BUSTARD IN FULL DISPLAY  
Wings out, tail up and head resting on the great pouch  
(Right) THE PERFORMANCE NEARLY OVER  
The Great Bustard starts to straighten his feathers





nearly as much vim as in the spring. Nevertheless, all the wide range of activities summed up under the word "courtship," and including out-of-season displays, are undoubtedly a means to the great end of perpetuating their kind. Just as the play of a young creature gets eye and muscle tuned up for the business of life, so does the off-season displaying of a male bird enable him to perfect the dance, the posturing and other antics which will figure largely in the marriage ceremonies of springtime.

A question of particular interest in connection with bird displays is whether a performer is self-conscious. His pattern of behaviour is of course a matter of heredity and is as typical of his species as the markings of his feathers, but does this exclude appreciation and understanding of his own beauty?

Mr. Stonor, in discussing the significance of bird beauty, particularly male adornment and its probable effect on the female, refers to the stimulating action of "messages" received by the senses. He says there is "A gland known as the 'pituitary body,' that lies in the head and very close to the brain. It is known to have several uses; one use is as a kind of general prompter or activator of the other ductless glands; it has been called 'the leader



THE MALE HERON STANDS WITH STIFFENED NECK AND THROAT PLUMES ERECT TO ATTRACT A MATE

of the endocrine orchestra.' The important point for us is that this pituitary body is known to be affected in a direct way by messages sent to the brain *via* the eye. So that when a Paradise bird performs his dances, or a peacock shows the dazzling magnificence of his train, the unusual and arresting sight he presents to the female . . . makes a strong impression on her eye, is flashed back to the brain and the pituitary gland, which sends out its message to the rest of the body, *via* the substance it secretes, to tone itself up and get ready for the breeding season."

Then the author goes on to say: "This is far from shutting out altogether any æsthetic point of view; I for one find it impossible to believe that the harmony of colouring, the brilliance, and the beauty of ornament that so many birds show in their courtship can have been evolved merely because they happen to serve the right purpose, and without their owner on their recipient in the display being in the least conscious or appreciative of them."

But Mr. Stonor's excellent volume must be read, with its details of bower birds that decorate their showing-off stations with pretty objects and even paint sticks, to albatrosses that use their mighty wings in display, and many other remarkable facts. Nature-lover, scientific ornithologist, and even the person who knows little of birds, will alike enjoy its clear and explicit survey of this often fantastic aspect of bird life.

The illustrations accompanying this article are reproduced from "Courtship and Display among Birds."



AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD IN FULL DISPLAY WITH THE GREAT THROAT POUCH DISTENDED



WAGTAILS INDULGE IN A COMBINATION OF A CHASE AND A DANCE

# THREE GENERATIONS

A REVIEW BY EDITH OLIVIER

TWO GENERATIONS. Edited by Osbert Sitwell. (Macmillan, 15s.)

"TWO GENERATIONS"? It should be three. Mr. Osbert Sitwell, in editing and presenting the Memoir and the Diary written by his great-aunt and his aunt, reveals, as they did, each for her time, a mind and an attitude. The old lady looks back on a lifetime, and depicts it as a shapely whole in the medium of memory; the ardent girl responds with artless sensitiveness to each impression as it comes: the sophisticated student of life is "entertained," as he says, by each, but more by the girl than by the old lady. In fact, Mr. Sitwell is right when he says he will not attempt to disguise his feeling that this journal is a discovery.

Superficially, there could not be three more different people than Mrs. Swinton, Florence, and Mr. Sitwell, yet much of the difference is in circumstances. Fundamental characteristics persist, and fortunately these are characteristics which tend to readability. Every Sitwell seems to be blessed with a selective eye. And with this is the gift of depicting a scene, a character, or an event in a few generally very unexpected words. Long may these legacies be passed from one generation to another in this remarkable family!

Mrs. Swinton was born in 1824, but her memories of her girlhood were "put together, at a leisurely pace, in the eighties and nineties." Emotions do not survive such an interval, while differences in manners between one period and another stand out in clear relief. Looking back from a world of "railways and rabble," the scene at Doncaster Races in the 'forties, once so familiar, assumes a new and nostalgic beauty. Dukes, peers and archbishops "vied with each other in the beauty of their equipages and horses." Sir George Sitwell drove four bays, the postilions in dark green jackets, with yellow striped waistcoats and black velvet caps; and his outriders were in dark green liveries. Many noblemen arrived in carriages drawn by six horses, and the procession must have been like a most costly and aristocratic circus. Scenes like this, definitely visualised and delicately described, make the distinction of Mrs. Swinton's Memoir.

Florence Sitwell was a less passionate and more archdeacon-ridden contemporary of the writer of "A Letter from a Girl to her own Old Age," and, in its formless way, the Diary is equally vivid. But as a born Victorian, I ask Mr. Sitwell what he means by Florence's "Victorian Priggishness." Priggishness suggests something spurious. It is a mean and unimaginative pose; and in the names of Ethel May, Dorothea Brooke, and Mary Smith, I protest. Like these, Florence was true to the spirit of her age, and was therefore quite sincere. The archdeacon's party woke one night in a French train to sing "Three Blind Mice": they stepped aside from a Swiss waterfall to break into "Rock of Ages." Which of these "Moments Musicaux" can be called priggish? They are merely, each of them, unlike us. I grant Mr. Sitwell only one instance of priggishness in Florence, and that is when she says that "little Katy Spooner . . . was in that excited state which I am always so sorry to see." Here she writes as if the Archdeacon were looking over her shoulder; but this is the only time when she fails to reveal an unself-consciousness so unusual to-day, that it becomes unbelievable.

## QUEER CHARACTERS

As a rule Mr. William Roughead agrees with the company at Mr. Waterbrook's dinner party (in "David Copperfield") that there is nothing so satisfactory as blood; but this time, in *RASCALS REVIVED* (Cassell, 12s. 6d.), save for one murderous little *jeu d'esprit*, he has abstained from it. In place of murderers

he gives us "characters," "such human beings as some oddity of mind or manner, some queer-ness of behaviour or quaint philosophy of life, distinguishes from the ordinary company of their fellows." Many of them come from his happy hunting ground, Edinburgh, particularly in the eighteenth century; but he is not bigoted in his patriotism. Here are two rascally Englishwomen of an admirable flavour. One is Madame Rachel (ob. 1880), the obscene old Jewess who, long before the public powdering of noses and rouging of lips became fashionable, traded on the weakness of her sex for being, as she said, "beautiful for ever," combining blackmail and other nameless activities with cosmetics. More superficially attaching, to use Mr. Roughead's favourite epithet, is Miss Mary Elizabeth Smith, who in the 1840's brought a famous breach of promise case against the young Lord Ferrers, and manufactured every scrap of the evidence, including a number of love-letters on both sides, entirely herself. The scheme was so magnificent that it seems a pity that, owing to a certain crudity in details, she failed to carry it through. It is, however, in his older Scottish characters that Mr. Roughead truly revels, and the more complicated the legal procedure in which they are involved the better he loves them. He rejoices in *apicibus juris*; his heart rises at the thought of "multiplepounding" (like Mr. Micawber with the gowans, I am not exactly aware what multiplepounding may be); he speaks with enthusiasm, as did Dandie Dinmont to Mr. Pleydell of "yon grand plea." The English reader may occasionally follow him, rather faint and feebly pursuing; but he will certainly enjoy Indian Peter, who began by being kidnapped, with the connivance of wicked bailies from Aberdeen, had the most harrowing adventures amid Red Indians, and returned to make a modest fortune, in the intervals of exhibiting himself in Indian costume, by prosaic penny posts and directories. He must sympathise, too, with two undaunted litigants. One is Mr. Kirkwood, who suffered such outrages from the "Twenty-seven gods of Linlithgow" that even among his own supporters "the gravest of them, and his greatest friends, could not contain themselves from laughing at the odd circumstances of the story." The other is Mrs. Betsy Mustard, who stung the lords of session to madness by her harangues and her grievances against the Bank of

Scotland. Here is indirect testimony to the greatness of Dickens, whom our author so loves. Mrs. Mustard was a real person; it is only sixty years since the courts resounded with her fury, and yet it has needed Mr. Roughead's genius to bring her back to life for a moment. Poor little Miss Flite only attended the court with her documents, and in fact never existed at all; yet she is immortal. B.D.

## HAPPY TRAVELLER

Mr. James J. Cash is one of those lucky people whose interests, many and varied, cast light and shade on every experience of their lives. He is quite obviously a lover of English literature, a lover of wild flowers and wild life, and an amateur of architecture. In his newest book, *WANDERINGS THROUGH MANY COUNTIES* (Jenkins, 7s. 6d.) he describes holiday journeyings through a great deal of England and part of Wales; sometimes he is listening, as it were—in his own country—to Gilbert White, sometimes to George Borrow; he stops to talk of John Clare or the Welsh poet Gronwy Owen, and always, as is so often true in this country, the scene takes an added colour and interest from its literary association. The flowers and birds that he sees are as much Mr. Cash's business, recorded not scientifically but in that spirit of affection which is so much more attractive to most of us, and this is a book to set you longing to follow the author's itinerary, to taste a little of those wells of natural beauty and interest which no man, know he his England ever so well, has really exhausted. History and geology, like time-tables and distances, are not much Mr. Cash's concern, but he, as it were, gathers up the essentials of the scene with both hands and offers them to his reader, occasionally with a beauty and simplicity which would not disgrace the great writers whose steps he has followed, in such a phrase, for instance, as this—and those who know the countryside best will most appreciate it—"Wales . . . in early summer when the pink dog roses are all ablow in the wayside hedge and June is written large across the countryside."

## IN THE CAMEROONS

Mr. Negley Farson is an American—quick, generous and very intelligent, and as he is also a good writer, he shows the quality of his mind in what he writes. His new book, *BEHIND GOD'S BACK* (Gollancz, 10s. 6d.), is the story of an adventure. He and his wife bought a Ford car and drove across Africa from Dar-es-Salaam to Duala in the French Cameroons. On the way he met people of every race and condition. Mr. Farson is chiefly interested in people, and his portraits are dashed off with point and relish. He met the native African in his home; he met administrators and excellencies—British, French, Belgian and Portuguese; he met Germans everywhere, good party men most of them, either by conviction or coercion. He deplores Whitehall's lack of economic policy, but feels that only the British have it in them really to love the native and care for his interests. As colonists, however, the English appear in this book to be rather like the lady of whom Mr. Farson asked: "Can she cook?" "Yes," said her German employer, "she can cook, but sometimes she don't want to." Apart from political comments, which are generally sensible and always honest, the book is a first-rate travel and adventure story, chiefly because the Farsons keep such a nice balance between mental and physical alertness. They hunt, with gun and camera, lion, buffalo and gorilla; they also admire the scenery, and have theological discussion at the White Fathers' Mission in Ruanda-Urundi. Mr. Farson indeed, with a stimulating absence of angelic caution, rushes in upon a multitude of subjects. He is always interesting.

## WITHOUT AND WITHIN

The qualities that go to make up Mr. Charles Morgan's distinction are exceedingly subtle; with every book one tries to analyse them afresh, and always with fresh pleasure. There is the delight of his style, which has that quiet, smooth simplicity that is attained by any writer only as the reward of intense effort and sleepless vigilance. Then, too, he has the gift to transport us to whatever world he chooses, and to keep us there, at home and content. All the same, the world of *THE VOYAGE* (Macmillan, 9s.) is a much more satisfying world than that of "Sparkenbroke" was. That world is a vine-growing corner of France in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. But undoubtedly the greatest source of Mr. Morgan's power is his



OSPREY ALIGHTING ON NEST, ROTHIMURCHUS FOREST, INVERNESS

This photograph was taken about forty years ago; the osprey ceased to breed in its last eyrie in the British Isles, also in Inverness-shire, in 1911

(From "Wanderings Through Many Counties")



mind's continual search for the links between temporal and eternal man. He is hauntingly aware of a unity behind all our disharmonies; but, as Barbet, the chief character in the book expresses it, "it is far back—far back behind our lives here—that the unity exists." So all voyages worthy the name are voyages of the soul in search of that lost, elusive unity. Barbet, simple countryman, capable vine-grower and unconscious genius in living, is lovingly and perfectly drawn; he is offset by Thérèse Despreux, passionate young egoist and brilliant actress. This pair, apparently so incongruous, love deeply; but part of the author's purpose is to show that not all true love, even if equal, may expect to end in marriage, home and children. "Not to force it (life), not to plan it, but to accept it," was Barbet's secret. How he does it, *THE VOYAGE* makes plain, in closely knit pages that take us blessedly far from our present discontents, and yet have a lesson for them.

#### MORE MR. WODEHOUSE

More Mr. Wodehouse! what good news that is! Very few of us can ever have too much of Mr. P. G. Wodehouse, and in war-time, when to be lost to all present-day worries in an absorbing book is one of the best holidays available, for most of us a new Wodehouse is almost worth its length in "All clear" signals—and can one say more? *QUICK SERVICE* (Jenkins, 7s. 6d.) is in his best,

simplest and most sparkling manner; now and then by some brilliant turn of plot or phrase, it extracts from the reader's lips the rare audible chuckle which is the highest praise. It is full of Mr. Wodehouse's best caricature characters, among whom the cat that smiled when dogs were discomfited has at least a walking-on part, and Joss Weatherby, the irrepressible hero, advertising artist in the service of "Paramount Hams," and Howard Steptoe, the ex-prize-fighter who would not wear boiled shirts, outstanding leads. How and why Joss became Howard's valet, and why so many people conspired to steal Joss's painting of the great Mrs. Chavander and lots of other things, readers must find out for themselves. These are all parts of a plot as tightly interwoven as any this wizard has given us. To recommend it to every reader and to envy them the reading of it are two instinctive actions no reviewer can escape.

#### STRANGE RELATIONS

Conflict, we know, is the essence of drama; therefore the more ill assorted the antagonists the fiercer the conflict. So it follows, at least, in *GYPSE GYPSY*, by Rumer Godden (Peter Davies, 7s. 6d.). Two more ill-assorted characters than Barbe de Longuemare, rich, aristocratic, proud owner of a château on the coast of Normandy, and the gypsy she allowed to camp in her grounds, under whose spell she fell in a queer way despite

her own masterful character could scarcely exist. For Barbe was a mysterious, remote and, perhaps, not particularly likeable woman, who tried to bend all around her to her will. Her niece, Henrietta, the Abbé Juneton, her old nurse Nana, and the gypsy, even, with his simple yet cunning mind, are all victims of her domination; and their and her reactions to it are the meat of this book. And good meat it is. There are besides some lovely pen pictures of Normandy.

#### BOOKS EXPECTED

A Guide to Modern Naval Strategy for the average man's enlightenment is to come from Messrs. Muller. Its author is Admiral Sir Reginald Bacon. Mr. Cherry Kearton, whose recent death all naturalists must regret, has left the MS. of a book describing his many journeys and adventures, which Messrs. Robert Hall will publish shortly under the title of *CHERRY KEARTON'S TRAVELS*. It is illustrated from his own photographs.

AN UNFINISHED AUTOBIOGRAPHY, by the late Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, is to come from the Oxford University Press this month, also *I BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY*, by the Master of Balliol. Mr. S. P. B. Mais has a new book for which he has chosen a title from H.M. the King's recent speech, *THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND*, appearing from Messrs. Hutchinson at the end of the month.

*LITTLE MAN—THIS* Now is the name of a novel by X. Y. Z., to be published by Messrs. Gollancz, which draws an interesting and exciting picture of the life of little men in Germany during the last few years.

## MR. TRUMBLE'S PROGRESS

### CONVERSATIONS ON THE CALLING OF A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

I.—HOW IT CAME ABOUT. By S. L. BENSUSAN

MR. TRUMBLE, of Trumble and Feverfew, Stockbrokers, having made a great deal of money as a result of more than thirty years' close study of men and things, was looking for new fields to conquer. He has two favourite showpieces, the first his large and imposing town-bred wife, a born hostess who manages his house, directs her children, entertains his friends, and looks up to him with the admiration his success demands. The second show-piece is the house his wife controls, a large and imposing one in Regent's Park, where a selection of those who have been equally successful in the battle of life receive elaborate hospitality. Mr. and Mrs. Trumble pride themselves upon their gifts of equanimity and discrimination; they have never suffered imagination to lead them astray, and avoid all emotion. A director of many companies, Mr. Trumble has been asked, and has refused, to stand for Parliament; as a business proposition it does not interest him.

Now he was lunching at Maychester Hall with Peter Charlesworth, the squire, and his unmarried sister—Miss Arabella to all the village. They had come from a recent inspection of Bydown, which belongs to the Squire, a fair-sized Georgian house with large stabling, several cottages, and some five or six hundred acres of heavy land including two hundred of woodland. The house has been on the market for a couple of years, but the Squire has farmed the land.

Mr. Trumble is smart and well groomed, keen-eyed, alert, and showing signs of a certain feeling for the fleshpots of Egypt; he has authority in his well modulated voice and a bald patch in the middle of his scalp. The Squire is tall, sparse, grey-haired, grey-eyed, and serene. Miss Arabella answers to the same description.

"I like the place," remarked Mr. Trumble decisively, "and I'm prepared to take it on a lease with option of purchase."

"You wouldn't farm the land?" his host queried.

"Pardon me, but I would," rejoined Mr. Trumble. "My experiences don't include farming," he continued rather expansively, "and though I know something of stock it isn't the stock interesting to farmers. But my knowledge of the world has taught me that common-sense principles applied to any form of industry bring results. I shall choose a young man from an agricultural college who understands costings and general accountancy, buy the necessary livestock and machinery, engage staff, and require a weekly return of what every man, animal, and machine produces. If I may say so, the comparative failure of farming is due to the neglect of these methods. A farm is a factory, and farming is a business. Would you admit this?" He looked towards his hostess and then round the large, simply furnished dining-room, with an air of understanding.

"I'm afraid," said Miss Arabella mildly but firmly, "speaking as a countrywoman, I could not."

"I agree," the Squire added. "It is not my way of looking at it either. For me farming is a way of life."

"I think," declared Mr. Trumble, very much at his ease, "that such a view is out-moded. When I entered business as a very young man I decided that I would learn all about the principles that have made us great. I think I may say I've done so. Now I'm going to divide my time between the country and the town, and I hope I'm going to be a bit of a pioneer here. If the town can bring business methods on to the farm, we shall transform agriculture. You won't know Bydown when I've had it a few years."

"I think," said the Squire, passing the prospect by, "you told me when we first met that you desired to enter into country life?"

Mr. Trumble nodded and smiled. "That's why I want Bydown," he replied.

"Well," his host continued, "you may hire the place, or buy it, but you'll never enter into its life until you understand that it is not like town life. It is more serene, peaceful, and contented, if I may say so," he continued, staring out of the window into the park of the moated manor house that is his home, "holding fewer prizes and greater riches. Those of us who have the ordering of it do try to preserve traditions and atmosphere. The city may stand for business, the countryside stands for England."

"I don't think I quite follow you," said Mr. Trumble. "There's surely only one England, embracing town and country."

"I always think of the countryside as the real England, and the town as something added to it," interposed Miss Charlesworth.

"That is true," added her brother; "the manufacturing era has seen a couple of hundred years, our countryside has a tradition older than the Domesday Book. Those of us responsible for its well-being don't think lightly of our job, I assure you."

"Your job?" repeated Mr. Trumble. "I don't understand. Aren't you, if I may say so without offence, landlords like the rest of us who hold real estate?"

"The people who've owned the land for generations," the Squire persisted, "whose fathers held it before them and whose sons will succeed have always recognised duties and responsibilities if they've been worth their salt. They give employment, they have an eye to the needs of the village, they endeavour to make its life worth while. If there's trouble here, the people turn to us to help them; if there is a happy occasion, we share it. People here don't work for wages only, there's a certain quite undefined association known to them and to me. We get newcomers from time to time, but none can live happily unless he is prepared to accept responsibilities."

"I don't want responsibilities," declared Mr. Trumble firmly. "I want the country for relaxation, a little shooting—I'm too old to hunt—a little farming, a little entertaining; I look upon your country as a—as a—"

"As a playground?" suggested Miss Arabella, smiling.

"Put it like that," said Mr. Trumble bluntly. "I want something and I'm prepared to pay for it. I don't want to buy trouble or responsibility, or obligation."

"There's something I find hard to define," said the Squire, as though he had not heard or heeded. "I might call it the spirit of the country. If you can enter into that you can be happy. But if you can't enter, you'll merely be in the country, and never of it. It is an odd position. I'm prepared to welcome you as tenant or purchaser, but when you tell me you wish to live in the country and to remain detached, I'm bound to warn you that you won't enjoy life when the novelty has worn off."

"I've never heard this point of view put forward," said Mr. Trumble quietly, "and I'm not altogether convinced, but I am interested." His voice had lost an earlier aggressive note.

"We don't talk about it," Miss Charlesworth interposed, "but very many of us try to live the faith that is in us."

"And how would you define that faith?" her guest asked her.

"My brother is better at explaining than I am," she replied, "but we do think alike."

"We wish to maintain a tradition that has never been expressed, and a law of life that has never been codified," the Squire explained. "We've inherited certain things; we want to hand that inheritance to our heirs, if possible rather better than we found it. Where the countryside held harsh laws, we have softened them; where those who worked for us had little consideration, we have increased it; the health and comfort of our people is our real concern."

"Pardon me," said Mr. Trumble, "I don't want to be rude, but haven't all reforms been forced upon landlords—better wages, housing, holidays, insurances, and the rest?"

"That's fair," said the Squire. "We did not recognise all our duty much before the Great War, but we have at least accepted the new conditions without complaint, though they have impoverished many of us. To-day we endeavour to uphold a good agricultural standard and to maintain outdoor sport without injuring the rights of our poorer neighbours. All this is plain duty. If we fulfil it there will always be an English countryside; if we neglect it, the towns will see to it that we don't have one. The landlords of England, great and small, are on trial. We ask for a fair one."

"You speak with feeling," declared Mr. Trumble. "Let me say frankly that I had



regarded the hire or purchase of a country place as I should regard the hire or purchase of business premises, an affair of a cheque, lawyers' fees and stamps."

"And I," said the Squire gravely, "look upon the landlords of England, large and small, as men in a beleaguered fortress. In the first place, we are a minority, and minorities have few rights. Secondly, townsmen know nothing of our difficulties and our responsibilities. To-day most landlords are poor men. In the past twenty years we've had a struggle, carrying our tenants as well as ourselves, faced with rising prices, living in simplest fashion, and glad to live because we really can't afford to

die. Death duties have added too great a handicap. We regard ourselves as heirs and upholders of a tradition. But there, I really must apologise; I asked you to lunch, not to a lecture."

"And I," replied Mr. Trumble, "came to talk of agreements, not sociology. But the fact is, you've given me a lot to think about. Here's a plain question: if I take Bydown and interest myself in matters I never heard of till this morning, will you help me with your advice if I get in a tight corner?"

The Squire thought hard for a moment. "You might not like it," he objected. "I'm very outspoken, and no respecter of persons.

And there are questions of running a house that my sister understands better than I do."

"I could advise you," said Miss Charlesworth, smiling, "but perhaps I can talk over things with your wife; this neighbourhood needs understanding, the people are very sturdy and outspoken."

"I'm interested. I'll take Bydown," said Mr. Trumble. "I've spent the last thirty years of my life learning, and I've no reason to hope or believe that I've nothing more to learn."

"My sister doesn't care for coffee," said the Squire as they rose from the table, "so you and I will have ours in the study."

## FARMING NOTES

### SOWING CONDITIONS—HENS' DIET—WINTER BEANS—ROOM FOR POTATOES

**W**HEAT sowing is going well. The rain came just at the right time, and the seed that went into the ground in the first week of October should get well established before night frosts come to check growth. I hear still of some complaints about high prices charged for seed wheat, and some smaller farmers express strong opinions about the exactions of some merchants, who are expecting 90s. a quarter for seed wheat of any kind. As a seller of wheat for seed I have been able to make 70s. and 72s. a quarter against the standard price of 65s. 3d. a quarter for ordinary milling wheat. Seed corn has to be dressed harder than ordinary wheat for milling, and to catch the seed market threshing has to be fitted in with urgent seasonal work in early autumn. So I do not feel that 70s. or 72s. a quarter is at all an excessive price to the grower of a good sample of a popular variety. The merchant pays this price at the farm, and if he takes 12s. or even 15s. a quarter for cartage, cleaning and dressing with mercury dust, and cartage to the buyer's farm, there is no excessive profit for him. He can reasonably look for 1s. or 2s. a quarter to cover his overhead costs. This brings the selling price to about 85s. a quarter. Worked out in this way, the merchants' price list does not appear too exorbitant, and whatever the law has required there have been many farmer-to-farmer sales of seed wheat at 70s. a quarter. The corn is not dressed at this price and is not really so economical as may appear.

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Egg prices have been raised by another 3d. a dozen. This gives 3s. 3d. and 3s. per dozen for rough graded eggs which do not pass through a packing station. Most of the sales in country districts come into this category. Alternatively, the farmer can sell to an authorised packing station, and for top grade eggs

receive 3s. 4½d. a dozen and 3s. 1½d. for standard grade eggs. These prices offer a substantial inducement to farmers to sell to the packing stations, especially as in most parts of the country the packing station's van picks up the eggs on the farm at these prices and the farmer incurs no marketing expenses. The returns poultry farmers are getting would be quite satisfactory if the hens would lay all the eggs we should like. But production seems to have fallen off very sharply in the past three weeks. This is not a lone experience due to some mismanagement, but a more or less general trouble attributed to the blustery weather and the poorer quality of the mash which poultry farmers are getting. There certainly has been a marked change in the composition of the laying mash and some ingredients which may have been conducive to full production are lacking. I say "may have been" because some of the proprietary mashes contained a great variety of ingredients which could not all have been really essential. The hens are living on a simple diet now, except those which get kitchen waste. They get bits and pieces of all kinds, which between them should make up a balanced ration. I hear of excellent results where hens are kept intensively on kitchen waste collected from a military camp, and I know of several farmers who are keeping their hens on kitchen waste collected in the towns.

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In the market one hears of farmers who have had to hold up bean sowing because they could not get supplies of seed released from control. I heard the complaint in Bedfordshire, and the same kind of trouble seems to have arisen in Surrey and one or two other counties. What seems to have happened is this. A large part of the 1940 crop of winter beans failed, owing to the extremely severe winter. In order to safeguard the supply of winter beans for

sowing and prevent beans good for seed being fed to livestock, the Ministry of Agriculture made a Regulation prohibiting the sale of 1939 winter beans except under licence. Farmers who had stocks of winter beans could only sell them through a merchant authorised by the Ministry. The merchant was required to inspect the beans to see whether they were suitable for seed, and a sample was sent away to Cambridge for a germination test to be made. The farmer was allowed to keep for feeding purposes any beans that were not up to seed standard, and also, of course, he was allowed to keep such quantity of beans as he required for sowing himself. Such control always spells delay, but on the whole this scheme seems to have worked fairly well. In some districts the authorised merchants have been so busy since harvest dealing with their ordinary seed trade that they have not been able to get round as quickly as they might have done to inspect these parcels of seed beans. The exasperation of the man who wants to sow some of his own beans and cannot get the authority which the law requires is quite understandable, but I cannot imagine any court convicting a farmer for taking time by the forelock and sowing his own beans as soon as he has his land ready. The law must be interpreted with common sense.

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Almost every county has been asked to find an additional acreage of potatoes for 1941. Some counties are putting this task almost entirely on to those farmers who have already grown potatoes. The man who grew 5 acres this year is being asked to grow 10 acres next year. In other counties almost every farmer is being asked to grow at least 2 acres of potatoes, whether or not he has ever grown this crop commercially before. The first method seems likely to work most smoothly. The farmer who has some knowledge of potato growing and at least a potato plough is likely to be able to tackle the job with less inconvenience. On the other hand, there are a great many farms where 2 acres could easily be found for potato growing, perhaps in a corner of the home paddock which is full of fertility and would grow a big crop. At the moment nobody seems to be especially enthusiastic about potato growing, although the new scale of prices fixed for the 1940 crop is generous enough to allow a decent return to anyone who has grown a full crop. The difficulty still is to get merchants to take up all the potatoes which are offered at the minimum prices. Many farmers like to sell the bulk of the crop without incurring the costs of long storage in clamps through the winter. Clamped potatoes not only represent a good deal of money locked up, but the wastage which takes place is always a consideration. This point is covered by the rising scale of prices, which reach a peak in May and June. In ordinary times we are receiving large quantities of new potatoes from abroad by the late spring, but next year we shall probably have to rely on main-crop potatoes which have been stored right through the winter and spring. Extra pains to make sure that main-crop potatoes are clamped in good condition and well covered with straw and earth to keep them safe should be well repaid. There has been little blight this season, and the main-crop potatoes are going into the clamps in sound condition.

CINCINNATUS.



THE POTATO CROP: STORING IN CLAMPS

# CORRESPONDENCE

## "BRITISH OFFICERS PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—On looking at the issue of COUNTRY LIFE of October 5th I noticed a photograph of British officers, prisoners at the German camp Oflag IXA. In closer examination I was delighted to find that three of the officers shown are known to me. At the right-hand end of the second row from the bottom is Lieutenant and Quartermaster Shortman of the 1st Battalion The Tyneside Scottish, The Black Watch, while the Adjutant of that battalion, Captain Murphy, is sixth from the left in the row above. The third officer is, I think, the former second in command of the 11th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry. Unfortunately, I only knew him slightly and have forgotten his name. All three officers were members of the 23rd (N) Division, of which I was also a member at the time. Other faces seem vaguely familiar to me, and it is possible that other members of the Division are in the group. I trust that you will quickly be able to identify the remaining officers.—W. R. HIRREES, 2nd Lieut., R.E., XII Corps Observation Unit, Home Forces.

SIR,—In the group you published of British officers now prisoners of war I wish to identify second row seated fifth from the right as Major C. W. Clout, 1st Royal West Kent Regiment. He was a member of the London Commercial Sale Rooms and Rubber Exchange, and I know several people who identified him as well. I have advised his wife, Mrs. C. W. Clout, Camden Ridge, Chislehurst, Kent.—A. K. FOSTER.

SIR,—I have seen your photograph of a group of officers in Oflag IXA Camp, and can identify the officer in the third row from the top and third from the left, sitting, as my son, Captain J. W. M. Mansel, the Queen's Royal Regiment.—ALGERNON L. MANSEL, Holm Place, Windlesham, Surrey.

SIR,—I was delighted to see your photograph of the prisoners of IXA, Germany. My husband (Milton David Charles Feilding, Second Lieut., R.E.) is seated on the floor in the front row, fourth from the left.—E. A. FEILDING, Walnut Tree Cottage, Bletchley, Bucks.

SIR,—As you ask for identification of the officers in the group of prisoners at Oflag IXA, I write to tell you that No. 3 from the (observer's) left in the front row is my son, Second Lieutenant L. H. Garrett, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, recently captain of Surrey County Rugby XV, who was taken at St. Valéry. Letters are coming through so very badly that such groups are likely to give pleasure to many who, like myself, have not heard from their relations for several months.—F. C. GARRETT, Lieut.-Colonel, South View House, Alnmouth, Northumberland.

SIR,—On looking through your issue of COUNTRY LIFE of October 5th, knowing my son to be a prisoner in Camp Oflag IXA, Germany, I recognise him in the top row, fourth from left. I should like to express my most grateful thanks to the sender of

this photograph for so unexpectedly giving me the chance of seeing my son, Second Lieutenant Ian K. Hamilton, R.A., and to you for having so thoughtfully published the same.—MARY E. HAMILTON, Abbey Hotel, Melrose, Roxburgh.

SIR,—In the group of British prisoners of War at the Oflag IXA Camp I very much think that there is a great likeness to my son, Second Lieut. J. H. Walker (94800), Sherwood Foresters, who has been missing since May 26th. I think that he is third from the right in the back row.—J. L. WALKER, The Cottage, Thornhill, near Bamford, Derbyshire.

SIR,—I recognise my brother-in-law in the photograph of officers at Oflag IXA, Germany, in your issue of October 5th. He is the fifth figure from the left in the back row, wearing glasses, and his name is Captain M. C. M. Athorpe, Sherwood Foresters.

My own husband is at VIIC/H, and I know what a pleasure any news is.—S. BARTLETT, Latneys, Danbury, Essex.

SIR,—I am so glad to be able to identify Mr. R. R. Calkin, on the extreme left (facing), third row from the bottom, standing, with glasses. Mr. Calkin was in charge of one of the Toc H houses serving the B.E.F. I believe that the Padre in the same row, third from the right, is the Rev. S. Austin Williams, another member of the Toc H staff with



WEIGHING THE DEAD MAN'S DEEDS  
At Alloway. Circa 1840

the B.E.F. I am getting this confirmed and will advise you.—STUART GREENACRE, Toc H, S.W. Area, The Retreat, Exeter Road, Dawlish.

## SCOTTISH GRAVESTONES

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I have heard it said that among the Scottish peasantry an invitation to "tak a daunder roon" the kirkyard" used to be looked upon as a natural preliminary to a proposal of marriage: was, indeed, as near a declaration of his intentions as many a bashful swain ever got or his chosen one ever expected. Such serious consequences, however, are not inevitably the result of such a stroll, and I suggest that the tourist will frequently find much of interest in old Scottish graveyards.

In the seventeenth, eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth centuries there was in Scotland a taste for elaborately carving the backs of tombstones—a taste oddly at variance with the severely plain, not to say ugly, churches erected in that period. These stones were evidently the work of local craftsmen, for a family likeness can often be traced in those of one churchyard, while those in a village a few miles away are after a different pattern altogether. Thus, at Kirkoswald, in Ayrshire, the design of several stones includes a couple of creatures obviously intended for mermaids. Evidently the mason had a fancy for them. Possibly he had at one time followed the sea.

While some of these carvings are crude enough, others show considerable skill in both design and execution, and a good knowledge of symbolic ornament. Simple or ornate, however, the design invariably includes a skull and cross-bones. Our forefathers were outspoken in deed as in word, and did not hesitate to introduce these emblems of corruption. The usual inscription in those early days always began "Here lies the corpse of." Later, we find that the deceased has become a mere memory, while still more recently it was the practice—by no means yet extinct—to make as much of the man who paid for the monument as of him who lay beneath. The hour-glass, typifying Time, is also usually present, sometimes accompanied by a ring for eternity. On a stone at Irvine the skull is used as a chair by a figure, presumably intended for the deceased, who holds a single shin-bone in his right hand. This flippant treatment of human remains is explained when we read, on the other side, that he was a "flesher"—as a butcher was at one time always called in Scotland—and, therefore, of course, accustomed to handle bones!

Frequently the implements of a man's trade are represented. A joiner's memorial will show his axe and hammer, a mason's his square and mallet, a gardener's his rake, roller and spade, a blacksmith's his tongs and a horseshoe. Sometimes again, we find the gardener digging or gathering his apples, the blacksmith shoeing a horse, or the farmer at the tail of a plough. A fine example of this last, dated 1698, is to be seen at Prestwick, Ayrshire. On this well carved stone four horses draw the plough, one man at their heads and another guiding the plough. This is rather puzzling. The land round Prestwick is very flat and the soil light and sandy. Two horses should be able to draw any plough. Can it be an example of swank—four horses represented just to



THE FARMER'S PLOUGH TEAM  
At Prestwick (1698)



THE SOUNDING OF THE LAST TRUMP  
At Kirkmichael, Ayrshire



A GARDENER WITH HIS TOOLS  
At St. Quivox, near Ayr (1727)



show that the departed was a man of substance?

One of the most elaborate stones I have found stands at Alloway and bears dates around 1840—surprisingly late for the type of memorial. It depicts the deeds of the dead man being weighed in scales, while a figure at each side attempts to affect the balance. Below, a skeleton representing Death extinguishes a candle, Time standing beside him with scythe and hour-glass.

Mentioned in a book published some seventy years ago is a stone I should have much liked to see, though there is no record of its having been carved with more than lettering. It stood at St. Quivox, near Ayr, and traditionally the wording was as follows:

"Wha lies here?"

"It's me, Johnny Wilson. What gars ye speir?"

"Hech mon, Johnny, is this ye?"

"Ay, mon, but I'm died noo."

Is this the sole instance of dialogue on a tombstone? If this stone has gone there is one at St. Quivox to a gardener, who stands with one hand holding his spade, the other pressed to his belly, prompting the question whether he had been eating green apples.

Though the carved gravestones I have mentioned are all in Ayrshire, such things are not confined to that county, but may be found in most graveyards in Scotland.—R. K. HOLMES.



THE OLD BARN AT FOWNHOPE

#### A CRUCK BUILDING DESTROYED

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Herefordshire claims to possess more old cruck buildings than any other county, and one of the finest was the old barn at Fownhope. It has recently been destroyed by fire. The photograph shows how the great crucks rose from floor to roof-tree to meet one another in outline like the timbers of a ship's hull upside down. It is wonderful how the old craftsmen, with primitive tools and means of transport, cut down, shaped and riveted these huge pieces of timber in cruck construction.—F. R. W.



BEAUTIFULLY TRAINED PYRACANTHUS IN THE YORKSHIRE VILLAGE OF COXWOLD

#### THE WASP-WAISTED BRIDGE

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I enclose a photograph showing a bridge at Linton-in-Wharfedale, whose construction is on a par with many of the present methods devised to prevent an invader's progress. Two hundred and fifty years ago the village benefactress, a Mrs. Redmayne, deciding that a bridge was necessary at this spot, called the local farmers together and asked them to share with her the cost of building one. They refused, whereupon the determined old lady erected the bridge at her own expense, but had it built in such a way—invitingly wide at both ends and narrow in the middle—that the niggardly farmers would not be able to draw their carts across! My photograph shows this "wasp waist" very clearly, I think. The familiar sign "For Pedestrians Only" would be quite superfluous here.—G. B. WOOD.

#### A MAJESTIC "FOUND OBJECT"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

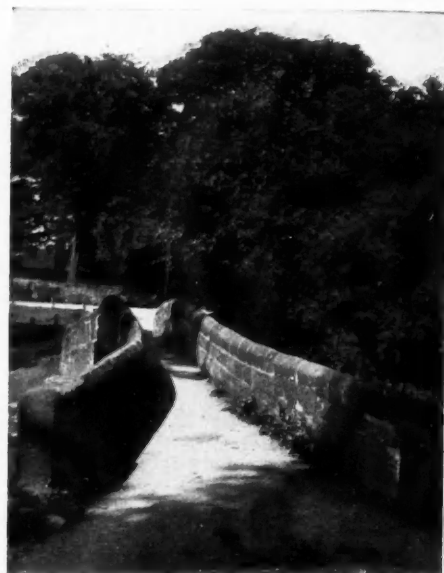
SIR,—I have had the enclosed photograph taken of what, though I do not pretend or wish to be an expert upon tubers, seems to me to be something in the nature of a record both in length and weight for an ordinary potato. Grown by Mr. Fred Smith in a village on the outskirts of Royston, it is a member of the Majestic group, and, as can be seen from the inserted foot rule in the photograph, measures just a fraction under 12 ins., while its solid weight—there is nothing hollow in it—has been verified as one of four and three-quarter pounds. Though rather outstanding, it is merely the leading example of a crop of potatoes only fifteen of which could be fitted into the usual double-handled potato-basket. Within a few yards of Mr. Smith's residence there is a house in the gardens of which there are beetroots which are too big in body to enter the mouth of a bucket, and carrots the size of quart champagne bottles. There can be little of commercial value in any of these, but it would be interesting to know from your horticultural expert how these enormities of growth have come about in a season so singularly free from rain.—ADAIR DIGHTON.

[Surrealists and horticulturists will alike be interested in this remarkable specimen, whether of Nature's abundance or essential modernity of outlook. The potato illustrated will no doubt be as much admired in Bond Street as in Covent Garden. It is most interesting to learn of the enormous beet and carrots produced near by, but without further details of soil and the manures applied, which may perhaps account for the remarkable size, we regret we cannot suggest a reason for such enormities, which, as our correspondent suggests, are only fit for a museum of vegetable curios and not for the table.—ED.]

#### THE CUCKOO'S CALL

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—A correspondent recently wrote to me enquiring what was the musical interval in the cuckoo's call, and suggesting that it varied from a minor to a major third as the season goes on. His letter



BRIDGE OF SPITE

prompted me to look up my notes for the last twenty years. I have records of both major and minor thirds in April, May and June, and can find no evidence that the interval increases from a minor to a major third as the season proceeds.

Other intervals recorded in my notes are a second, a fourth, a fifth and a sixth. The fourth and the fifth were heard in all three months, and



#### A RECORD POTATO?

the sixth and the second both in May and June. One very curious call consisted of three consecutive notes suggesting the well known catch "Three Blind Mice," the interval between the first and third notes being a major third.

In my Press-cutting book I find a letter by Mr. Cyril B. Rootham, dated June 5th, 1925, published in *The Times* about that date, in which he refers to "Cuckoo Notes," by the late Sir Hubert Parry, which appeared in "Music and Letters" for October, 1920. Parry recorded a major second, a major and minor third, a perfect fifth, and a major sixth. Mr. Rootham wrote that he had himself heard all these intervals, and also a perfect fourth and once an octave, "a startled, hurried call, but distinctly an octave." He added that in his experience the call widens usually from a second to a third and then to a fourth as the summer advances.

My wife has also made records, which confirm the variation in the interval, though they do not prove that the interval widens as the weeks pass. My notes, and the other records quoted, refer of course to various cuckoos. In order definitely to decide whether or not the musical interval in the call is increased or diminished as the season advances it would be necessary accurately to identify an individual cuckoo and record its song intervals throughout April, May and June.—E. W. HENDY.

#### IN LAURENCE STERNE'S VILLAGE

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—It would be difficult to find better examples of beautifully trained pyracanthus than the one shown in my photograph, taken in the pretty village of Coxwold, Yorks. Coxwold is one of those gems of the English countryside where life seems to flow placidly along. No wonder that strange genius Laurence Sterne was moved to write: "I'm as happy as a prince at Coxwold." Near these cottages is Shandy Hall, Sterne's quaint home. There he wrote the latter part of his most famous work, "Tristram Shandy," and the whole of its successor, "The Sentimental Journey."—J. A. CARPENTER.

[The method of training pyracanthus shown in the photograph is an excellent one and not often seen. A remarkably fine crop of orange-scarlet fruits is obtained from plants trained in this way.—ED.]



# GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN

## A BOX OF BALLS

SOME years ago two old friends of mine, golfers of distinction, were talking about the game. One said rather solemnly that the best form of practice was to take out no ball but a whole bag of clubs and have so many swings with each one in turn. The other, of a rather impish and perverse humour, answered: No; the really valuable discipline was to take no clubs, but a box of balls, and practice keeping the eye upon each of them in turn. That story, which I may perhaps have told before, comes into my head because I have just been feasting my eye on two boxes of brand-new golf balls. Driven from my home to a more or less golfless land, I determined that at least I would have some exercise with a club and ball in the neighbouring meadows; and then I discovered that I had no golf balls left in all the world. I must order a dozen—nay, this was no time for parsimony, and I would order two. I stipulated that they must be cheap ones, since I was sure to lose them; now they have arrived, and if they were made of gold and silver I could not boast more in the looking at them.

A box of balls! In the days of my youth, when balls cost but a shilling apiece and you could get very good re-mades for ninepence, a box of balls represented a rich stake for which the more dashing of my friends used to play their matches. The words have still in my ears an opulent and profligate sound. And what a beautiful sight is such a box in itself, with its three rows of four or four rows of three—think of them as you please—each one of the

dozen with its charms veiled by a paper covering which maddens by heightening desire. It was beautiful enough in ancient days when the paper was of simple white, but to-day the coverings are richer and more garish, sometimes of an almost Oriental splendour. These ones of mine are parti-coloured red and white—or shall I say gules and argent?—bearing a black label, and the paper is of a lovely crinkliness. How much joy is or ought to be represented by that dozen, sitting there so neatly and tidily with all the world before them! It gives me an intolerable pang to think that one of them—and no one can say on which the hand of fate will fall—will soon be scarred by a horrid top, and another perhaps inconspicuously hooked into a hedge and lost at the very outset of its young life. There is surely much scope for moralising in a box of balls.

My ecstasies may appear strange and exaggerated to those who buy balls on a grand scale, but I am one who supplies the wants of every day by a dive into the professional's shop, and so I doubt if I have ever possessed such riches all at a time for hard on forty years. A particular moment that I recall was in the summer of 1902. The Haskell ball had burst on the world at the Amateur Championship at Hoylake, and starvation prices were given for a single specimen with a crack in it that had already been used for several rounds. I had instantly ordered two dozen, and after many days they arrived. I can perfectly well remember the first shot I hit with one of them, at the first hole at Sudbrook Park. It was not a particu-

larly straight one and went into some trees to the right, but "the pride and ample pinion" with which it soared away appeared a revelation. One out of that precious two dozen I still retain, and it lives in a box with a feathery and an early hand-hammered gutty, where doubtless the feathery, one of the old aristocracy that once cost three or four shillings apiece, must look down on it with supreme contempt.

I was reading idly the other day some of those poems, for the most part of a surpassing badness and of a convivial turn, which ancient Scottish gentlemen used once to write about golf. One, rather better than the rest, was addressed to the first gutty, and contained a verse that somehow pleased me:

And sure some scientific loon  
On golfing will confer a boon  
And give ye a cosmetic soon  
And lighten your complexion.

It might have been rather mystifying but for a footnote explaining that the early gutty was dark in colour. That being so, it must indeed have been a boon when someone discovered how to whiten them, for it is that lovely, shining, virginal whiteness that makes of a new ball such a joy. I have just taken the paper off one of mine, and now it is reposing like a single glistening egg among its coloured companions. Some day it will be green and black and battered, but enough of such melancholy reflections. "Cras ingens iterabimus aequor," which means that to-morrow I will take it out into the big meadow and have a shot with it.

# A WINTER EVENING'S HOBBY

## BLOODSTOCK BOOKS

THE coming of the long winter evenings, accompanied as they are just now by lighting restrictions which render travel by car both difficult and dangerous, has resulted in an influx of letters from enthusiastic amateurs seeking knowledge as to the best books about bloodstock for them to read. Hitherto there has been little chance to reply to correspondents, otherwise than through the post, but now, during a temporary lull in racing and sales, an opportunity is afforded of dealing with the subject as comprehensively as possible in the space available.

Perhaps the simplest way of treating this subject is to regard it from the viewpoint of a Bloodstock Library. As such its contents may be divided into works of reference, scientific treatises, histories, and autobiographies, and they may be considered in that order. Naturally, in that they are official, the most important works of reference are the *Racing Calendar* of races past, and the *General Stud Book*. Preceded by several transient calendars, like those of Cheny, Pond, Heber, Jackson and Pick, the first official *Racing Calendar*, published by Messrs. Weatherby, appeared in 1773. It contained not only the main features as known to-day, but a table of weights for the "Give and Take" Plates, the competitors for which were handicapped according to their inches; also copies of the articles for King's Plates and Newmarket Cups, reports of racing at St. Jago de la Vega (which is believed to be in Jamaica), and the Rules of Cock-fighting and a return of the results of the more important matches. As the *Calendar* has appeared each year since its introduction, it is obvious that a complete set is not within the reach of all, and much the same applies to the *General Stud Book*, which first came out under the auspices of James Weatherby in 1791, and has been published at periodic intervals ever since. Complete sets are obtainable, but are expensive and room-devouring, so for those whose income does not depend on the industry the late Mr. C. M. Prior's "History of the Racing Calendar and Stud Book" can be recommended. Apart from these and *Ruff's Guide*, the leading work of reference and of far more general interest is the *Bloodstock Breeders' Review*, which appears

annually. This work dates back to 1912, and, besides containing a mass of invaluable statistical matter, carries easily written stories on the chief events run for during the past season, not only in England and Ireland, but throughout the world; these are illustrated with photographs and are accompanied in another part of the work by tabulated pedigrees of the winners. Beyond these, save for Taunton's "Famous Horses," which in condensed form gives the breeding particulars and the racing performances of the best-known animals, and Touchstone's "Racehorses and Thoroughbred Stallions," which covers much the same ground in greater detail, there is nothing in the reference line likely to appeal to the bloodstock convert, for, unless he or she is to become an actual breeder, those essential works, "The Thoroughbred Mares' Record" and Major Keylock's "Dams of Winners," which serves to bring the former up to date, contain too many concrete facts to be suitable for armchair reading. Only those engaged in the reading or writing of pedigrees can conceive their time-saving value; many a racing regular was accompanied by them in his peace-time journeyings.

The volumes that rest on the scientific or semi-scientific shelves can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Baron von Oettingen's "Horse-breeding," which was published in 1909, still remains the classic of its kind; William Allison's "The Thoroughbred Horse" is the best and most easily understood exposition of the Bruce Lowe theory that there is extant; McKay's "The Evolution of the Endurance, Speed and Staying Power of the Racehorse" promulgates a theory about the major importance of the heart; Lady Wentworth's "Thoroughbred Racing Stock" is the most comprehensive work yet written on the origin and evolution of the thoroughbred in all parts of the globe. The articles by Professor Robertson in the "Flat-racing" volume of the Lonsdale Library, with the others also by experts which this recently published work contains, make it the most valuable addition to bloodstock literature that has appeared for many years.

Passing to the "histories" Sir Theodore

Cook's "History of the Turf," which was brought up to date a year or two ago by Captain T. H. Browne, well known as a writer under the *nom de plume* of "Pegasus," holds a position of its own among the general histories very much in advance of the earlier works of White and of Rice. Among the volumes that are specialised, or devoted to one place or race, there are so many excellent works that it is hard, for example, to make choice between Hoare's "History of Newmarket" or Siltzer's more flowing and profusely illustrated book on the same town. Orton's "Turf Annals of York and Doncaster," in which there is the most exhaustive account of Mrs. Thornton's famous ride against Buckle, vies with the later "History of the St. Leger Stakes," by Fletcher. Ascot and Goodwood have volumes written about them by Cawthorne and Herod and by John Kent; Chester is catered for by G. T. Burrows, so long editor of the *Live Stock Journal*; Edward Moorhouse's "Romance of the Derby" is the only authoritative work devoted to the world's greatest flat-race, while Finch Mason in his "Heroes and Heroines of the Grand National," Monroe in his "The Grand National," and Bird in "One Hundred Grand Nationals" have all paid their attentions to the famous steeplechase.

As for biographies and autobiographies their name is legion. Henry Hall Dixon, better known as "The Druid," holds the premier position with his four volumes, "Silk and Scarlet," "Saddle and Siroin," "Post and Paddock," and "Scott and Sebright"; Alfred Watson's "Sporting and Dramatic Career" is most informative; Allison's brace, "My Kingdom for a Horse" and "Memories of Men and Horses" are equally attractive; trainers, like the Hon. George Lambton, John Porter, John Osborne, Richard Marsh, Sam Darling, and Charles Morton, have all put pen to paper to recount their adventures, and among the jockeys Tod Sloan, Arthur Nightingall, Henry Custance, Fred Archer and Stephen Donoghue has each done his share.

This must complete the catalogue as space on the paper is as short as it is becoming on the shelves; more can be added on some future occasion.

ROYSTON.

# THE ESTATE MARKET

## FARMS IN EAST ANGLIA

**A** REMARKABLE feature of the activity in country estate offices and auction-rooms is the continuing enquiry for farms in the East Anglian counties, and even right into the defence areas. It can be accounted for in more ways than one. The "war of nerves" has met with no more success among the farming population than among the rest of the community, and, as there are comparatively few farms in the market, those that do come in are eagerly snapped up by men who intend to go on with the cultivation at once, and who are glad to take advantage of the low prices often accepted by executors and vendors who are retiring from active work on the land.

Although some of the Cheshire and other large farms that have lately changed hands have been acquired by strangers, this is not the case in the defence areas, where difficulty of access to inspect the farms and to get accurate expert advice is very real. For that reason the local man, and often, happily, the sitting tenant, gets a chance to acquire his holding at a bargain price. Hard pressed as many farmers have been, the prices that have ruled at some recent sales have been such that many tenants must have been able to obtain their holdings without even having recourse to a loan. The small farmer, fortified by a lifelong local experience, can make a good living on a farm of 50 to 100 acres. While some agricultural experts, like Mr. Bernard Shaw, advocate the nationalisation of farming, the small man, who knows the peculiarities of his local land and the time-honoured methods of using it, can still make a success where possibly large-scale mechanised and committee-managed schemes would fail.

wait for auctions. Thus not a week will be wasted in carrying on the work of the farms.

Norfolk land has found buyers at an auction conducted at Upwell by Messrs. Elworthy and Grounds, who sold a holding of 21 acres in Back Grove for £2,050, and small enclosures of arable and pasture in Broad Grove for a total of £1,625.

Suffolk sales have included one held at Stowmarket by Messrs. Woodward and Woodward, and consisting of a couple of holdings in Bradfield St. Clare, one being Bush Green Farm, a freehold of 42 acres, for £600, and the other, Elm Green Farm, 99 acres, for £1,425.

Chipley Abbey Farm, 150 acres at Poslingford and Hundon, realised £1,720, under the hammer of Messrs. Alfred Darby and Co. in the auction-room at Clare. Another auction, at Stowmarket, held by Messrs. Thos. Wm. Gaze and Son, resulted in the transfer of Ivy Lodge Farm, 33 acres, in Gislegham, for £730.

Essex lots in Galleywood, Billericay and Great Baddow, comprising pasture, woodland and land that ordinarily would be classed as ripe for development for houses, changed hands at Chelmsford through Messrs. Alfred Darby and Co. for a total of £1,665.

### AN "ATTESTED" DAIRY FARM

**A** PERFECTLY equipped "attested" farm, near Crewe, may come under the hammer of Messrs. Henry Manley and Sons, Limited, locally, on October 28th. It is White Hall at Warmingham, a modern house with cottages, modern buildings scientifically designed and equipped, and "main"

now partly laid out in accordance with the injunction to "Dig for victory."

A Surrey auction, held by Messrs. Harrie Stacey and Son at Redhill, resulted in the sale for £975 of Friston Lodge, a freehold of over 2 acres on Outwood Common, with possession.

Sussex property has not been very prominent in the auction-room recently, but Messrs. J. R. Thornton and Co. held an auction at Lewes a few days ago, when Rodmell Place Farm, 112 acres freehold, with entry on completion of the purchase, fetched £3,450.

Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, acting under instructions from Mr. E. Willis Fleming, have sold by private treaty The Billet, North Kilworth, near Rugby. They have also sold Flex Hill, a freehold of 16 acres, at Upton, near Leamington Spa, this for Mr. T. F. Main.

Somerset dairy farms continue to be in keen demand as investments. Some such sales are among those announced by the Frome office of Messrs. Harding and Sons. The list includes Wheatlawn Farm, Babcar, Taunton, 102 acres; a holding of 100 acres on the outskirts of Frome; and Bellevue Farm, 64 acres, at Trudoxhill, near Frome.

### SOME ATTRACTIVE OFFERS

**T**HE Cotswolds, Chilterns, Malvern Hills, and Devonshire moors are among the places where choice houses with from 4 to 50 acres can be bought through Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, who gave views of the properties in one of their pages in COUNTRY LIFE of September 28th. They have also to let, furnished or unfurnished, for the duration of the war Istock Place, Roehampton, a house with 6½ acres standing in a secluded position between Richmond Park and the grounds of the Roehampton Club.

Mr. Percy Simpson's executors, instructing Messrs. Nicholas, offer Rushdown, a modern house in the colonial style, and 69 acres or less at Upper Basildon, the house, four miles from Pangbourne, stands 450ft. above sea level.

A Cotswold house and cottages with 80 acres are offered by Messrs. James Styles and Whitlock for £6,500.

To effect a quick sale Messrs. George Trollope and Sons can accept a mere fraction of the original cost of a modern house and an acre of garden, five miles from Guildford.

Horsington House, on the Somerset and Dorset border, is to be sold or let unfurnished. The agents are Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. The property, which extends to 20½ acres, is on the outskirts of the quiet little village of Templecombe, in one of the most beautiful parts of Blackmore Vale, with extensive views over the country which Thomas Hardy knew and loved. The stone residence stands 300ft. above sea level, and is suitable for scholastic purposes. There are three cottages.

Such is the demand for copies of the advisory booklet on claims for war damage, issued free of charge by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, and mentioned in COUNTRY LIFE a week ago, that applicants may have to wait a few days while a second edition is in the press.

### A WEST COUNTRY SALE

**M**ESSRS. J. and H. Drew, F.S.I., F.L.A.S., (Chartered Surveyors, Exeter), have negotiated a sale of Craddock House Estate, Culmpton, Devon. The matter has been in the hands of the manager of their department dealing with auction and private treaty, Mr. E. Geoffrey Browne, F.A.S.I. Messrs. Drew acted with Messrs. George Trollope and Sons. The estate, some of the most valuable land in Devon, being in the Culm Valley, belonged to Mr. H. H. G. New, J.P. The property, about 650 acres, is all in a ring fence in the hamlet of Craddock, which adjoins the village of Uffculme. The estate includes the residence and five farms and five smallholdings, as well as a house near the main house, also woodlands and cover, and the fishing in the Culm, which bounds the estate on two sides, and in Craddock Brook running right through the estate. The stone collonaded Georgian house was built in 1785. The purchaser, whose husband, a naval officer, has been recalled to the service owing to the present emergency, proposes to live on the estate later on.

Messrs. Hampton and Sons have a beautiful old freehold house for disposal in Berkshire. Up to 143 acres can be had with it, and this includes the home farm, let at nearly £100 a year, and 30 acres of woodland. They have recently sold Ruckmans, a property of over 100 acres at Oakwood Hill, Dorking, with an old gabled house and delightful gardens laid out by the late Mrs. Jekyll.

A charming sixteenth-century house, in the heart of the Ledbury Hunt, is for sale with 12 or 15 acres, by Messrs. Winkworth and Co. The well restored house would be let, with the ground only, at £250 a year.

ARBITER.



CRADDOCK HOUSE, CULMPTON, DEVON

The principal sale of farmland in the last week or so was one effected by Messrs. Bidwell and Sons' Cambridge headquarters; this was the Norfolk freehold, Booter's Hall Farm, Letton, six miles from East Dereham. A mixed holding of 497 acres, consisting of 297 acres of arable, 162 acres of pasture, and 32 acres of woodland, it has a capital farmhouse and buildings, and many cottages, and it is free of tithe and land tax. The vendor, Mr. A. W. Gordon, has himself farmed the land for about a quarter of a century, and it is in excellent heart and condition. An auction had been fixed to be held in Norwich, but Mr. Ray Rivett, a local farmer, made an acceptable offer in advance, and, as Messrs. Bidwell and Sons say in informing us of the sale, "Mr. Ray Rivett is anxious to get on at once with the autumn cultivations, and it being clearly in the national interest that he should have every facility for getting his wheat in, our client, Mr. Gordon, decided to sell at once without waiting for the auction." The woodland, though valuable, was not of sufficient extent to evoke the competition of timber merchants; however timber may help up the price of a property, it is nevertheless somewhat of a disturbing factor in the occupation of land. Ridley's Covert, Mason's Grove and Crafer's Wood are thriving young fir plantations containing a quantity of mixed pitwood. Some of the pasture on the property has been ploughed up pursuant to the Defence Orders.

Besides managing over 60,000 acres of land, Messrs. Bidwell and Sons farm more than ten square miles on behalf of corporate bodies, trustees and others. They have very few farms for disposal, but, in view of the urgency of food production, they have, with the full concurrence of clients, accepted offers from practical farmers rather than

water and other services. The buyer will have the option of acquiring the pedigree attested and recorded herd of 113 Ayrshire cattle, and the full equipment of the holding as a going concern. The firm has sold a Shropshire freehold on Higher Heath, at Whitchurch, for £1,515.

Sandford House Farm, West Felton, 152 acres, has been privately sold by the Oswestry office of Messrs. Norman R. Lloyd and Co. as an investment. They withdrew the dairy farm, Marton Hall, Chirbury, 193 acres, the reserve not being reached at the final bid of £7,400, after there had been spirited competition by a large company of farmers and agents.

### WHILE THE SIRENS SOUND

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the apparent indifference of bidders at country auctions to the wailing of the sirens, it cannot be said that this particular "Alert" adds to the concentrated thought that is needed when property is passing under the hammer. At half a dozen recent auctions the question of withdrawing for a while until the "Raiders passed" was sounded was put and decisively answered in the negative by the company.

On the morning of the auction at Messrs. Harrods Estate Offices in Brompton Road, Mr. Frank D. James, the professional head of the agency, succeeded in disposing of Domaha, a first-rate modern house and 5 acres of garden and parklike land, at Forest Row. In the afternoon, a Hampshire property, Old Wharf House and a couple of acres, at Greywell, was submitted, and as bids did not exceed £3,500 the freehold remained for sale. It is an oak-beamed, small, but very nicely arranged house. The delightful gardens are



# RABBITS!

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## FAMED FOR QUALITY THROUGHOUT FIVE REIGNS

# McCall's PAYSANDU OX-TONGUES

**SOLUTION to No. 559**  
The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of Oct. 12th, will be announced next week.

L	A	R	K	S	P	U	R	C	H	I	M	E	S
O	E	I	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
R	E	G	I	C	I	D	E	S	L	A	T	E	D
D	I	K	I	F	I	T	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
L	O	N	G	L	A	S	T	S	T	R	O	L	L
Y	A	E	M	S	I	C	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
M	A	T	C	H	M	A	K	E	R	E	R	E	R
A	S	M	Y	U	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	S	S	S	S	S
S	O	R	D	C	S	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
U	T	T	E	R	S	S	H	E	T	L	A	N	D
A	F	E	I	E	O	B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
G	E	R	M	A	N	C	O	C	K	S	U	R	E
E	E	G	N	E	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
S	I	E	G	E	S	E	S	T	R	A	N	C	E

- ACROSS.
- Would it be to hole out in one? (four words, 1, 6, 2, 4)
  - A white metal (7)
  - Part of the body I put at the back (7)
  - Not a large measure for her (4)
  - and 14. An embroglio in Eire? (two words, 5, 4)
  - It is not for the reception of out-patients (7)
  - A sorry state for a girl to get into first (7)
  - Both secrecy and craft are suggested by this adjective (7)
  - "His wins" (anagr.) (7)
  - and 25. Read differently the paper announces a fresh race (9)
  - So eyed it looks crooked (4)
  - "Die? Not I" (anagr.) (7)
  - "And there I'll rest as after much —  
A blessed soul doth in Elysium."  
—Shakespeare (7)
  - The opposite of long-suffering (13).

## "COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 560

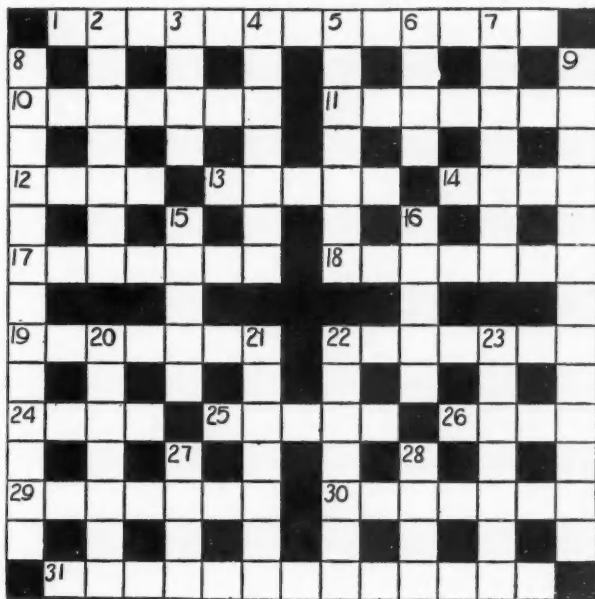
A prize of books to the value of 2 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 560, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the **first post on the morning of Friday, October 25th, 1940.**

The winner of Crossword No. 558 is  
Mrs. E. M. Allen, Meadowside, South Cary, Castle Cary, Somerset

### DOWN.

- This cooking vessel is set with the kill already inside it (7)
- A form of transport to abuse? (4)
- The German claims friendship as he raises his hands (7)
- The animal administers a rebuke to one feigning illness (7)
- "She dwelt among the untrodden ways  
Beside the Springs of Dove."  
—Wordsworth (4)
- The first letter in London (7)
- His rank might suggest that he was placed in charge of the flank (two words, 4, 9)
- Where to store your gear in Gloucestershire? (four words, 4, 2, 3, 4)
- and 16. The West Indies seem to have canonised 6 (two words, 5, 5)
- A sailless cutter from the sea (7)
- There is nothing in the instrument, but it would become a peer (7)
- A holy place (7)
- Vex a few, but it may be annoying to all (7)
- Deceitful effect of inverting 3 (4)
- He composed "Rule, Britannia!" (4).

### "COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 560



Name .....

Address .....



# FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY

## OUR DUAL-PURPOSE CLOTHES

By  
ISABEL CRAMPTON



THE feeling for simplicity in dress, which grows stronger with every week of war, is reflected in the fact that it is difficult now to draw any very definite line between town clothes and country clothes. That is not to say that there are not many delightful things definitely earmarked for one or the other, but between them come a vast number of suggestions every whit as desirable which can be happily worn in either setting. Though it has been taken in a definitely country scene, the subject of the big photograph on this page, which comes from Miss Lucy (Harewood Place, W.1), is quite plainly just as suitable to practical town wear. You have only to imagine the wearer of this very pretty Angora wool cardigan suit walking down Regent Street on a bright autumn morning, instead of standing at a gate on the cliffs, to realise how truly dual-purpose this coat and skirt is. It is carried out in that fascinating colour, donkey-brown, and worn with one of Miss Lucy's lovely shirts in coral rose crêpe and the felt hat that matches perfectly has a gay parrot wing as its completion. This is too, of course, one of those suits most cosy and comfortable for house wear. Another shirt with its own stitched hat to match, perhaps a little more country in effect, but still well suited to wearing in town is shown in the oval photograph; this is in a woollen fabric in the new raisin bloom shade, and can be made in most colours. Miss Lucy's habit of making her hats for their wearers



Hugh White

is one that I like very much; it means just that touch of adjustment for each that will make it exactly right for its wearer.

### LITTLE FURS

A great many women, as the weather grows colder, feel that, do what they may with scarves or handkerchiefs or even with the ingenious vest to match the jacket—a kind of flap or extra lapel tucked back on warmer days—which I saw the other day, they cannot feel dressed in a coat and skirt without a fur. I must admit that the lovely marten tie by Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove (Oxford Street, W.1) which appears at the bottom of the page would look extremely well and cosy as the completion of Miss Lucy's donkey-brown suit. It is made of three skins and is, very light and warm and really most becoming, colour, texture and line all ideal, and very, very smart. Of course, the big single-animal fur, fine fox, for instance, will be worn this winter; but this type of fur, something much smaller and more elegant, which can be worn if desired quite close to the throat, is definitely newer, or, rather, is one of those returns to earlier—Edwardian?—fashions which are the very newest thing in our own day. Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove have an extraordinarily good selection of furs just at the moment, and this was only one among many, which I chose because I thought that many of my readers would like the latest news of little furs. Of course, some of the fur coats here are really magnificent, but the range is so wide that the woman who wants a practical and not too expensive coat will probably find just what she wants.



(Above) A CARDIGAN SUIT IN DONKEY-BROWN ANGORA WOOL WITH SHIRT OF CORAL ROSE CREPE AND MATCHING HAT TRIMMED WITH A GAY PARROT'S WING (Miss Lucy)

(Left) THE NEWEST LITTLE FUR: A MARTEN TIE WHICH CAN BE WORN IN VARIOUS WAYS. (Marshall and Snelgrove)

## Where to Stay

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MINISTRY OF FOOD



### THE WEEK'S

# FOOD

## FACTS No 12

A FEW commonsense rules of diet may make all the difference to your sleep. Don't have a heavy supper, which might cause indigestion. Instead have a light nourishing meal, and eat it some hours before you go to bed.

### ON THE KITCHEN FRONT

#### A Light Supper Dish

Try fish and celery casserole for supper. Cut 1½ lbs. fillets of any white fish into convenient pieces. Roll in flour or oatmeal seasoned with salt and pepper, and put in your casserole together with the outside sticks of a good head of celery chopped into inch lengths. Add three or four potatoes roughly sliced, cover with milk and water, half and half, and cook very slowly for 1½ hours. Season with salt and pepper before serving.

#### How to make a HAY-BOX

Hay-box cookery is particularly suitable for stews, soups, root vegetables, pulses, porridge and bacon. And it saves fuel.



A wooden box measuring about 2 ft. deep and 2 ft. 6 in. square is a convenient size. You can often buy one at your grocers. It must be fitted with a strong lid, secured with hinges and a hasp.

First line the box and lid with several thicknesses of newspaper; then, if you have it, with some clean, old flannel or felt. Use tacks to keep these linings in place.

Pack the box tightly with hay to within about 4 ins. of the top, making two nests in the hay for your cooking pans. A padding of hay should also be fixed to the underside of the lid.

Make a hay cushion 4 ins. thick to put on top of your pans.

To use the hay-box, bring your food to the boil in a pan on the stove, put on the lid tightly, then wrap the pan in newspaper and put it in one of the nests in the hay-box. Cover with the cushion, fasten the lid and leave the food to cook, allowing at least twice as long as for ordinary simmering. When required, heat up on the stove again before serving.

Said Mrs. A to Mrs. B:  
"Your meals have such variety!  
In vain for new ideas I hunt—  
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Said Mrs. B to Mrs. A:  
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